



Household security

The following security advice should be used as a checklist for your home and appropriate improvements.

Lock windows

- Ensure that windows are fitted with a quality deadlock.
- Louvre windows need to be permanently secured.
- Fit sensor security lights to cover areas of the building with windows.
- Windows at the side and rear of your premises are particularly vulnerable.
- Include quality exterior lighting for windows at the front of your premises.
- Small windows – many residents make the mistake of not securing small windows like skylights or bathrooms, however a thief can get in easily.

Doors

- Keep garage doors locked with a sturdy lock, preferably sliding bolts.
- Doors should be solid and well fitted with an appropriate locking mechanism. Hollow core doors, which can be easily broken, should not be at external entry points.
- Patio doors should have special locks fitted top and bottom unless fitted with a multi-locking system. Also install an anti-lift device to stop a thief simply lifting the door off its rail.
- Fit a security mortice lock to french doors, and mortice bolts to the top and bottom of both doors.

Alarm Systems

- Alarm systems provide an excellent backup, however a balance between electronic and physical security is required.
- Alarms provide two methods of detection, at the perimeter of the building or areas within the premises once the perimeter has been breached.
- Ensure that you have a back to base alarm system.
- Installation of the alarm system should comply with and meet the intent of the requirements of the *Australian Standard for Intruder Alarm Systems Part 1: Systems installed in a client's premises*.

Safes

- A safe offers a high level of security, especially for items such as cash, jewellery and important documents.
- There are many different grades of safes available and your choice will be determined by the degree of resistance you require.
- For maximum security, a licensed professional should install wall and floor safes.

Driveways, garages and sheds

- Fit sensor security lights to cover all areas of the driveway to reduce the vulnerability of car theft or assault.
- Never leave a garage or garden shed unlocked, especially if it has a connecting door to the house. Lock tools and ladders away so that a thief cannot use them to break in.



Strangers

- Be alert to suspicious people loitering in residential streets, or perhaps walking in and out of the front yard of houses.
- Do not open your door without first asking who is there and being sure you know and trust the person outside.
- The best defences against a doubtful caller are a viewer or spy hole in the door and a stout door chain.
- Remember; if in doubt keep them out.
- Don't let the caller stop you doing these things by saying he or she is in a hurry. A genuine caller won't mind waiting outside with the door closed while you ring.

While you are away from your home for an extended period of time

- When on holidays, make sure your home looks lived in.
- Have your mail delivery stopped or get a neighbour to collect it.
- Consider putting your lights and/or radio on a timer.
- Ask someone to put out your rubbish bin and take it in when emptied.

Looking after your unit

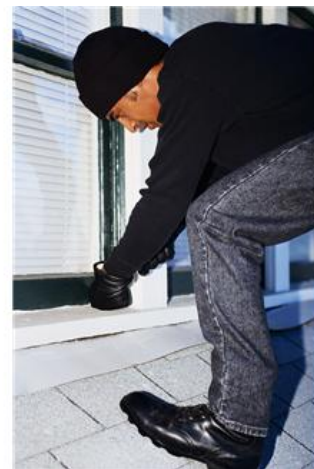
- Make sure your front door is strong. Fit hinge bolts, which stop someone pulling the door from its hinges, and fix a special steel strip into the door frame.
- If you have rear sliding doors ensure that a wood dowel is placed between the door and the frame, and ensure that a slide bolt lock is used to reinforce security.
- Make sure doors are strong, solid core construction. Fit a five-lever mortise deadlock.
- A deadlock can only be opened with a key, so a thief cannot smash a nearby glass panel to open the door from the inside.

Spare keys

- Never leave a spare key in a hiding place like under a doormat, in a flowerpot or inside a letterbox. Most thieves know all the usual hiding spots.

Safety tips

- Burglaries committed on residential premises are generally the result of criminals taking advantage of an opportunity. Many burglaries can be prevented.
- Simple precautions such as window locks and security deadlocks on doors do work in preventing burglary.
- Victims of home burglary find the experience traumatic, disturbing and intimidating. By being consciously proactive you can implement a plan that will reduce the opportunity for crime and minimise both personal and property damages if crime does occur.
- There is strong evidence to suggest that break and enter victims are likely to be the subject of repeat incidents if the premises security is not improved.



For further information on crime prevention and community safety, visit Council's website at www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au or contact Council's Community Safety Officer on 4645 4632.

