

Preventing a burglary



Home burglary remains one of the most common crimes in Australia, with a clear rise in burglaries during the warmer months when people may be on holiday or leave windows and doors open to stay cool.

Thieves target items like televisions and stereos, as well as credit cards, cash, outdoor furniture, tools and computer equipment because they can easily be resold or traded. Often the most valuable item stolen is jewellery, and in many instances stolen goods are never recovered.

What can you do?

Take the following steps to protect your home and contents and make your property less attractive to opportunistic burglars.

Lock up your home

- » Always lock the doors and windows, even when you're home.
- » Install quality deadlocks on all external doors and your main door should have a peephole or locked security door.
- » Key locks on your windows and security screens will allow you to let the breeze in during the summer months.

Remove hiding places

- » Cut back trees and shrubs to remove potential hiding places.
- » Consider lower or see-through fences to allow a clear view of your house.
- » Install motion-activated lighting to keep track of what is happening outside at night.

Don't make it easy

- » Leave spare keys with a trusted neighbour, friend or family member instead of outside the home in obvious locations, like under mats or flowerpots.
- » Lock up tools, gardening equipment and ladders, as these can be used to gain access to your home.

Try not to be obvious

- » Only let trusted family and friends know you're holiday plans and avoid advertising your plans on social media.
- » Leaving large boxes on the verge shows burglars you've purchased new electrical goods.
- » Avoid leaving notes on your door, as it announces to unexpected visitors that the house is unoccupied.

Be proactive

- » Use window stickers to warn that there is an alarm system and that property is marked.
- » Make sure your house looks occupied by leaving lights on at night if you are out.
- » If you're going away set timers for lights and radios and consider cancelling the newspaper delivery.
- » If you don't have someone to collect your mail while you're away, organise for the post office to keep it secure until you're back.
- » Ask a trusted neighbour to occasionally park in your driveway, or have friends or family drop by to check on your property if you're away on a lengthy trip.
- » Don't open your door or provide access to your home without knowing who is there and remember to check the identity of any charity collectors or salespeople.

Keep records of your valuables

- » Take photos of your valuables and keep a record of details in a handy place. This can help recover them if they are stolen and will also help if you need to make an insurance claim.
- » Mark your property by engraving or leaving a visible and permanent mark for easy identification.

Get involved

Join Neighbourhood Watch and receive regular emails from your local police about crime prevention and safety issues in your area. Visit nhw.wa.gov.au or call **9222 1513**. If you're already an online member, you may like to consider becoming a street representative.



Alarms

Consider installing an Australian Standard approved burglar alarm system. Intruders are far less likely to break into a house with an alarm system and when combined with monitoring will ensure an immediate response. Remember to always activate your alarm system whenever you leave your home. If you're an RAC member and have your alarm monitored by us, you can even save up to 25% on your RAC Home and Contents Insurance.*

Get advice

RAC Security offers a free security consultation at your home to help you find the best security solutions to match your needs. They'll also give you a no-obligation quote so you can decide the next steps you'd like to take. Call **1300 360 504** or visit rac.com.au/security

Do you have the right level of cover?

RAC Insurance recommends that you review your building and contents insurance regularly to make sure you have the right level of cover to suit your needs.

What are you covered for with RAC?

RAC Home and Contents Insurance offers:

- » New for old cover on home contents, regardless of age
- » Cover for furniture, carpets, household goods, appliances and gardening tools
- » Cover for clothing, jewellery and precious items
- » Cover for tools of trade
- » Cover for glass and locks



Use our home and contents insurance calculators at rac.com.au/calculators to estimate the value of your home and its contents.

Need to lodge a claim?
Call 13 17 03 or visit rac.com.au



*Cover is subject to policy terms and underwriting criteria. Sum insured limits apply to certain items. Check our PDS to see if the policy is right for you. RAC Insurance Pty Ltd (ABN 59 094 685 882) issues these products. RAC Head Office: 832 Wellington Street, West Perth, WA 6005.