

September: Home security (general)

Our feelings of personal safety are strongly connected with the confidence we have in our home's security. Household burglary is one of our most prevalent of crimes. What many people don't realise is that there is so much more we can do as individuals to protect ourselves, our homes, our families and our neighbours.

Some tips to keep in mind include:

Keys:

- Never leave spare keys outside your home such as under door mats or pot plants.
- Don't have personal details such as your name and address on your key rings.
- Don't leave spare house and car keys in visible areas inside your house.
- Don't leave spare remote control units for your garage in visible areas inside your house.

Windows:

- Install key operated locks on all windows and ensure they are locked when you leave your house.
- Use laminated glass or shatter resistant window film to prevent windows being broken.
- Don't leave windows open when you are not home, or alternatively windows can be partially locked open with some types of window locks.

Doors:

- Install quality deadlocks on all external doors and lock them when you leave your house.
- Secure garage doors with deadlocks or strong padlocks.
- Install quality security doors and ensure that they are fitted with locks.

Yards:

- Make sure you keep all gates locked. Rear and side gates of homes are often targets for thieves.
- Install movement activated security lights at the front and back of your home.
- Dogs in the backyard can be a deterrent for would be burglars.

Alarms:

- Visible alarm equipment can be an effective deterrent for thieves.

Keep in mind that one of the most important things you can do is to identify your property. Thieves generally don't like stealing property that is clearly identified as marked property is harder to dispose of. Engrave your electrical equipment and other property with your driver's licence number. Engraving machines are available from your local Neighbourhood Watch Association.

If you would like more information about home security, see ACT Policing's website at www.afp.gov.au/act .

Source: ACT Policing