



Neighbourhood Watch
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Neighbourhood Watch

Burglary prevention

Home burglary is one of the most common crimes in our community. Being burgled can have a devastating impact on families whose privacy has been violated and household belongings stolen.

Most home burglars are spur-of-the-moment opportunists. They just see an opportunity and take it. In a large number of burglaries, offenders enter through an unlocked door or window.

Facts about home burglars

Most burglars want to take as much out of your house as they can and sell it as fast as they can, for as much money as they can get. Their primary targets are expensive items that are highly portable and easy to dispose of. They are not usually shy. They'll not only walk right in if the door's open or unlocked, many of them don't really care if you are busy elsewhere in the house.

What can you do?

Think about how you can make it harder for a thief to find and sell you valuable property.

Keep in touch with your Neighbours. They are your most valuable security asset as they can keep an eye out for your property and report any suspicious behaviour.

Always lock up. Don't overlook the obvious. Doors and windows should be locked, not only when you leave the house but when you are elsewhere in the house, on the phone, in the garden, or otherwise preoccupied, away from points of entry.

Cut away the camouflage. Cultivate a garden, but not a burglar's paradise. Plant trees and shrubs and build walls and fences so an intruder can be clearly seen in your front or back yard, and keep bushes around doors and window trimmed.

Deadlock internal doors. The main door is the most likely point of entry and should be your first priority. A key-operated deadlock on a solid timber door is the safest option. Reinforce the dead lock whenever possible with a security screen and a peephole. Sliding glass doors are particularly vulnerable and should be bolted top and bottom or fitted with a specifically designed deadlock.

Secure all windows. No window is too high or too small for burglars. All windows should be secured with keyed locks or security grills.

Light up at night. Keep doors, window, and pathways well lit at night. Movement activated sensor lights are highly recommended.

Lock garden sheds, garages and side gates. Sheds and garages are usually the repository of tools and other implements burglars use to assist in a break in. Keep them padlocked as well as side gates.

Lock up the meter box. Locking up your meter box prevents thieves interfering with your power supply or security sensor light systems.

Install burglar alarms. The best alarms to complement other forms of household security are highly visible, audible alarms.

Property inventory. You should keep a detailed inventory of all your valuable property, including serial number, make, model, colour, size and original cost. Mark your property by engraving or etching with an engraving tool or a hand engraver leaving a visible and permanent mark. Engraving your driver's license number is recommended. Engravers can be borrowed from your local library or Crime Prevention Office. For items that cannot be engraved and jewellery it is recommended you photograph it next to a ruler.

Scams. Be wary of itinerant trades-people offering 'good deals' on home repairs, security devices or home improvement jobs. Remember if it seems 'too good to be true' it usually is. Always obtain three quotes so you can compare prices with other companies and make sure there is a 10-day cooling off period if you decided to buy.

Reporting a crime

- In an emergency, dial 000
- To report a burglary, dial 131 444 for police assistance
- [Crime Stoppers](http://www.crimestoppers.wa.gov.au) 1800 333 000

A practical audit for your home

A safety audit of your home can identify areas where security can be improved. The following checklist can be used to review your home security.

If you answer **no** to any of the following questions, you should be thinking of improving or upgrading the security for your home.

Question	Y/N
Is the house number clearly visible from the street?	
Are trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places?	
Do the front and rear doors have a solid core?	
Are the doors fitted with a deadlock and/or deadbolt?	
Are security screens fitted to doors?	
Does the door have a door viewer (peephole)?	
Are the windows fitted with key operated locks or security devices?	
Are your locks keyed alike so that one key opens all doors or windows?	
Does the house have an automatic light timer or sensor activated lights?	
Are lights left on when you go out?	
Is there adequate lighting at the main entry and exits?	
Is there a telephone extension in the main bedroom?	
Are emergency numbers keyed into the telephone?	
Do you have an alarm? If so, is it always used and serviced regularly?	
Is the garage/shed securely locked?	
Is the meter box locked?	
Are tools/ladders secure?	
Is property engraved or marked for personal identification?	
Has valuable property been photographed?	
Have serial numbers been recorded?	
Are you a member of Neighbourhood Watch?	
If so have "WARNING" stickers been stuck to windows advising that property has been marked for identification?	
Do you have a dog?	

[Burglary: what now?](#)

[10 Steps to increase home security](#)

[Holiday security](#)



For more information:

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Community Safety Branch
8 Burton Street, Cannington, WA, 6107

Tel: 9356 0555

www.nhw.wa.gov.au
info@nhw.wa.gov.au