

# Preventing Burglaries From Homes

Burglaries are a violation of your privacy and security. The personal impact and loss of irreplaceable items may be even greater than the value of the items stolen.

Most burglaries are opportunistic and occur during the day when residents are not at home. The most commonly stolen items include jewellery, cash, computers and other electrical equipment, however burglars will steal anything they find valuable. Use these tips to help protect your home and your personal belongings.

## Burglary Prevention Checklist

Lock Up	Tick
Lock all windows and doors, even when you're at home. Unlocked side and rear doors and windows are the most common entry points for burglars	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install deadlocks on all external doors and windows – remember to disengage deadlocks when you are inside to allow easy escape in the event of a fire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install a security screen door	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lock your mailbox to prevent the theft of mail and personal documents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep garden tools and ladders locked away. Your tools may be used by thieves during a burglary to gain entry to your home	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep garages and sheds locked	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Actions	
Get to know your neighbours. They may recognise unusual activity when you're out	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bring in your bins and collect mail regularly so your home looks lived in. Ask a neighbour to bring your bin in if you are away for a while	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make sure your house is visible from the street so passersby and neighbours can detect suspicious activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut overhanging branches and trim shrubs back from your house to make it harder for burglars to hide	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place packaging from newly purchased expensive items in the recycling bin – leaving boxes on the nature strip lets burglars know what you have inside	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider having a dog	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install sensor lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install a monitored alarm system	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check the details of any salesperson or workman that comes to your door. Report any suspicious activity to your local police	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider installing a safe to store valuables	<input type="checkbox"/>
Backup computer hard drives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Join your local Neighbourhood Watch and be an active part of crime prevention in your community	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Key Crime Prevention Tips

- **Lock** all doors and windows
- **Appearance:** Make it look like someone is home when you're out
- **Detect:** Make it harder for burglars to get in without being seen
- **Secure** valuables in a safe or hidden place

## Key Security

- Only leave spare keys with a trusted neighbour. Never hide them on your property.
- Keep all spare keys or car keys in a secure place – car keys may be stolen in a burglary and used for car theft.

## Mark Valuable Property

- Use an engraver or ultra-violet marker to identify your property. Marked property is harder to sell and easier to return if located.
- Mark with 'V' followed by your drivers licence number. i.e. V123456.
- Photograph valuables and record details on a property inventory form.

## In The Event of Burglary

- Report any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood to police.
- If you have been burgled, do not touch anything. Call police on Triple Zero (000).

If somebody breaks in while you're at home:

- Get out or find a safe place, such as a secure room and call police on Triple Zero (000).
- The safety of yourself and others is more important than trying to prevent a burglary.



VICTORIA POLICE



If you require immediate police attendance, call police on Triple Zero (000)  
If you have any information regarding a crime, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000  
For further crime prevention information, visit the Victoria Police website at: [www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)  
Visit the Victorian Government Community Crime Prevention Website at: [www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au)