

Ways to Protect Your Home

- Get new locks or have tumblers reset when you move into a previously occupied dwelling. You have no way of knowing who might have keys to your doors.
- Don't hide keys outside the door; under mats, flowerpots, over mouldings etc. If you can hide it, a burglar can find it. If you want an extra key nearby, leave it with a trusted neighbour.
- Have good, safe locks on all doors and windows. Use auxiliary dead bolt locks on all exterior doors. Lock the doors when you go out - even for just a minute.
- Install an alarm that can be used to detect entry or smoke. Post stickers on doors and windows advertising your residence has an alarm.
- Don't let strangers go into your home. Ask for identification. People on legitimate business will be glad to show identification.
- Report any broken streetlights in your neighbourhood. Well-lit areas discourage burglars by taking away their hiding places.
- Don't leave house and car keys together with attendants at public lots. Your house keys can be quickly duplicated and your address obtained from your numberplate.
- Don't give information to strangers on the telephone. On wrong-number calls; don't tell the caller your number. Report continued wrong numbers to the phone company.
- Use metal grillwork on glass in entrance doors and decorative side glass to prevent burglars from breaking the glass and reaching inside to open the door.
- Report to police any strangers loitering in your neighbourhood or a person asking strange questions about you or your neighbour's whereabouts.
- Store ladders inside. Don't leave them loose outside. If you can't put it safely inside, lock it securely. Suggest your neighbours follow this rule on ladders, too.
- Put things away. Don't leave articles on footpath, lawns or verandah areas easily accessible to the general public.
- Be alert for unusual activities. If you see an unknown person loitering in or around a neighbour's yard, don't be afraid to check their identity with your neighbour on the phone.
- Close garage doors whether home or away. Opened - and empty usually indicates an empty home, and often allows easy access to the entryway, unseen from the street.
- When working in any place away from the main area of the house - LOCK UP.
- Secure all entrances at night and when leaving... including garage doors.
- Use lights effectively. Leave several on in different parts of the house when you go out. Outside entrance lights and post lights illuminate possible hiding places around your house. Sensor lights are excellent to detect movement and save on electricity bills.
- Vary your routine. If you follow the same routine week in and week out, a would be burglar could watch your movements and know when your house is likely to be empty.
- Keep letterbox empty. If you are away arrange with a neighbour to have mail collected.
- Check references of cleaning people, or anyone who may work inside your home while you are away from it.

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