

Residential Burglary Information Sheet & Appraisal Form

Principles

Many strategies for reducing the occurrence of residential burglary are based on the principles of:

- Increasing the effort required to commit residential burglary.
- Increasing the risk of the offender being detected
- Reducing the rewards for the offender

10 simple strategies

There are many strategies you can use to foil a residential burglary and it isn't necessary to make a fortress or become a prisoner in your own home.

- 1. Always lock up.** Doors and windows should be locked, not only when you leave the house, but also when you are elsewhere in the house, in the garden or preoccupied, for example on the phone. Don't forget any upper level windows. Don't hide an entrance key outside – take keys with you or leave with a trusted neighbour or friend.
- 2. Don't forget sheds and garages.** Keep them padlocked. Offenders not only steal the contents but also use the tools often stored here to break into the house. If there is a connecting door between the garage and the house, ensure it is also locked. Side gates should be locked. Lock the electricity meter box to prevent security lighting from being turned-off. Ask your electricity retailer for further information.

Remove any obstructions. Offenders use shrubs, garden walls and fences to hide behind while breaking-in. Trim bushes and trees around doors and windows and if you are designing a new garden; site trees, shrubs, walls and fences so an offender can be seen clearly from the street. Picket or rail-and-post type fences not only provide security but also visibility from the street.

- 3. Mark your valuable property.** Marking your valuable property with identification makes it less attractive to an offender as it makes the item difficult to sell.
- 4. Light up at night.** Keep doors, windows, pathways and driveways well lit at night. Movement activated sensor lights are ideal.
- 5. Family dogs.** Research suggests a family dog deters many potential offenders.
- 6. Out for the day (or night).** Offenders generally target empty houses. Never leave your home obviously unoccupied, even briefly, for example by leaving notes on the door. At night you can use timer devices that switch lights and radios on inside and movement activated sensors to switch lights on outside.
- 7. Plan for holidays.** Longer absences require planning. Arrange a trusted neighbour or friend to clear your letterbox and take out and bring in the bin. They can also park in your driveway occasionally. Cancel deliveries such as newspaper and milk.
- 8. Get to know your neighbours.** It's you and your neighbours who are in the best position to recognise suspicious activities in your street so lookout for each other and report any suspicious activities to the police.
- 9. Prepare for an emergency.** Don't lock yourself in. Always ensure you can safely and quickly escape in an emergency. Ensure your house number is clearly visible so police or other emergency services will be able to find your house quickly.



Neighbourhood Watch WAonline

www.nhw.wa.gov.au

Neighbourhood Watch WA 8 Burton Street Cannington WA 6107
Tel: 9356 0555 Fax: 9356 0506 info@nhw.wa.gov.au

RESIDENTIAL SECURITY SELF-APPRAISAL FORM / GUIDE

EXTERIOR

Street No.	Displayed at front of house? * Essential Services should be able to locate the house in an emergency. * House numbers should be bold, reflective, and located in a prominent position.	Y / N
Letterbox	Is the Letterbox secure? * Mail should be kept secure to protect the home owner's personal and financial details.	Y / N
Meter Box	Is the meter box locked? * The meter box can be locked with a Western Power approved lock to give them access.	Y / N
	Is there a viewing window? * A viewing window allows authorised persons to read the meter.	Y / N
Grounds	Is the house visible from the street? * Trees, bushes, and shrubs should be trimmed back to eliminate hiding places.	Y / N
	Are there any loose objects in the yard that can be used to break-in? * Garden tools and children's toys should be put away when not in use. * Rock gardens and statues can be cemented in place.	Y / N
	Are gates locked when not in use? * Gates should be padlocked to prevent access to unauthorised persons and to secure family pets (dogs).	Y / N
Lighting	Are movement sensors installed? * Movement sensors should be installed at the front and side of the house to detect approaching and persons moving to the rear. * Sensors should be mounted high enough out of easy reach.	Y / N
Out Buildings	Are garden sheds / workshops secured? * Secure sheds with padlocks or quality key locks. * Lock / secure windows.	Y / N
	Are tools marked for identification? * Engrave tools with MDL number. * Record power tools serial number.	Y / N
	Is garage / carport adequately secured? * Keep roller door (if fitted) closed and locked when not in use. * Remove loose items / valuables from open carport and store elsewhere.	Y / N

STRUCTURE		
Doors	Is the security / barrier door of adequate strength? * The strongest screen door is one that meets or exceeds Australian Standards.	Y / N
	Is the front door of solid construction? * External doors should be solid core with a thickness of 38mm.	Y / N
	Are double deadlocks fitted? * These can be key locked (both sides) which prevents reaching through and unlocking.	Y / N
	Can visitors be identified without opening the front door? * Peepholes and interview grills allow you to see who is there before unlocking and opening the door.	Y / N
	Can sliding doors / windows be lifted off tracks and removed from frames? Anti-lift screws can be fitted.	Y / N
Windows	Do all windows have key locks? * Keyed alike locks are preferable as fewer keys are required to be kept and will avoid people leaving the keys in the locks. * If windows need to be open for ventilation or air conditioning, lock them in that position.	Y / N
	If window grills are fitted, are they of adequate strength? * People must be able to escape easily in case of a fire. Grills should cover the opening side of a window only. * If both sides are grilled, ensure smoke detectors are fitted.	Y / N
INTERIOR		
Alarm	Is there an alarm at the premises? Un-Monitored (local audible) Self monitored (phone modem) Monitored (monitoring station / security company) * Monitored alarms may incur an ongoing cost or a fixed contract.	Y / N
	Are smoke alarms fitted? * Smoke alarms can be battery powered or hard wired. * They can be used together with a monitored alarm for FESA response.	Y / N
Valuables	Are the valuables engraved or marked for identification? * Valuables should be engraved with MDL number.	Y / N
	Have serial numbers of property been recorded? * Serial numbers of electrical goods should be recorded. * Property should be photographed and kept catalogued.	Y / N
Safes	Is a safe or strongbox in the property? * Safes can be useful for documents as well as valuables * Safe can be manufactured to be fireproof. If a safe is not suitable, consider using a bank safe deposit box.	Y / N
STRATEGIES / PROGRAMS		
NHW	Is the householder a member of the Neighbourhood Watch program? * Check with your local government agency for suburb managers and street reps in your area.	Y / N