Home Security Checklist

This checklist has been developed as a guide for assessing your home’s resistance to crime. Answering **‘no’** to a question indicates areas you could act on to improve the security of your home.

# House number

It is important that your house number is visible from the street to assist emergency services locate your home.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Is your house number visible from street? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Is your house number visible at night? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Fences and gates

Fences and gates can be used to define your property boundary and limit access into your property.

Front fences or gates should be open-style to increase visibility into your yard, this will help to identify intruders to your property.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Does the fence around your house allow for natural surveillance from the road and/or footpath so people trespassing can be seen? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Is your fence in good condition? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Can the gate(s) be secured? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Landscaping

Trees and other landscaping should be maintained to increase visibility into your yard and reduce hiding places.

Tree branches should be trimmed to prevent intruders accessing upper story windows, balconies or sky lights.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Are shrubs and bushes trimmed so they don’t block visibility into house? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are trees maintained so they can’t be used as natural ladders to upper levels? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Could an intruder find a place to hide in your front yard? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Lighting

Sensor lighting should be installed around the perimeter of your home, particularly over entry/exit points or in secluded areas to increase visibility at night.

Consider using light timers to turn lights on/off when you’re not at home.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Do you have sensor lighting installed? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Does the sensor lighting work? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are entry/exit points to your home adequately lit? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Do you have light timers? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Letterbox and power board

Your letterbox should be fitted with a suitable lock to limit access to your mail.

The power board should also be housed within an appropriate lockable cabinet to restrict tampering with your power supply.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Does your letterbox have a secure lock? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Do you keep your letterbox securely locked? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Is your power board enclosed within a lockable cabinet? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Doors

External doors and frames should be of a solid construction and fitted with quality deadlocks that meet Australian/New Zealand standards.

Fire regulations must also be met to enable occupants to escape during emergencies such as fires.

Installation of a peephole will help you identify people at the door before opening it. Also consider installing patio bolts on sliding doors for added security of your home.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Are all external doors and frames of a solid construction? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are all doors fitted with quality locks that are in good working order? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are all doors locked and keys removed from locks when no one is home? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Does your front door have a peephole installed at a suitable height? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Does your house have security screen doors? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Is access to underneath your house restricted? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Windows

External windows and frames should be of a solid construction.

All windows should be fitted with quality key-operated locks and locked when not in use.

Existing glass can be laminated or reinforced internally with a shatter-resistant adhesive film to restrict access.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Are windows of a solid construction? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are windows fitted with quality locks? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are windows kept locked when no one is at home? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are windows reinforced with shatter- resistant adhesive film/laminated glass? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are skylights suitably secured? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Garage and garden shed

The garage and garden shed door and windows should be securely locked to restrict access. The garden shed should be securely anchored to the ground to prevent lifting.

Garden tools, equipment and ladders should be locked away when not in use, so they are not used to gain entry to your home.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Can your garage be securely locked? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Do you keep your garage locked? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Do you keep your garden shed locked? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Do you keep your vehicle locked when it is in the garage? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are ladders, wheelie bins, tools and valuable equipment locked away? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Property identification

Record descriptions/model/serial numbers and photos of property for easy identification. Ensure these records are secured safely.

Mark your property with a traceable number (e.g. your drivers licence number) for identification. Your local library, police station or neighbourhood watch may have an engraver or ultra-violent pen you can arrange to borrow.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Do you have an up-to-date inventory of your home contents, with photos? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Is the inventory and photographs stored securely? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are your household valuables engraved/marked for identification? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Safe, key and valuable controls

Consider installing a safe for added security for your valuables. Safes should be manufactured and installed to the Australian/New Zealand standard. The safe should be concealed, securely anchored to the foundations and kept locked when not in use.

Keys (including vehicle keys) should not be left in locks or in plain sight, as thieves may use them to gain entry to your home and/or steal your vehicle. Spare keys should not be hidden outside the home.

Limit the amount of cash kept at home, as this is often not covered by insurance. Also secure jewellery and do not keep valuables in plain sight.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Do you have a safe that is securely anchored out of plain sight? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are your valuables (including your wallet and mobile phone) and jewellery secured and out of plain sight? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| If you keep cash at home, is it stored securely out of plain sight? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Are keys (including spare keys and garage door remote controls) kept out of plain sight (e.g. not on a key hook  hung on a wall)? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

# Intruder alarm systems

Intruder alarm systems should be manufactured and installed to the Australian/New Zealand standard.

Research has shown that monitored/back-to-base intruder alarm systems are more effective as they alert your security company of intrusions, resulting in a quicker response.

If monitoring your own alarm system remotely, advise police of any suspicious activity at the earliest opportunity by calling 000 if the suspicious activity is occurring now or 131 444 if it is a non-emergency.

The system should be designed to provide maximum coverage of the home and garage. Remember to regularly check the battery and test the system.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | YES | NO | Comment | Date to be fixed | Completed |
| Does your house and garage have an intruder alarm system installed? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Is the intruder alarm system monitored / back-to-base or remotely |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Do you regularly test your alarm system and check the battery? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |
| Do you have an alarm system sticker displayed to deter possible intruders? |  |  | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

This checklist has been adapted by Tasmania Police with permission from the NSW Attorney General’s Department for general use.

This checklist does not guarantee that all security risks have been identified or that the area evaluated will be free from criminal activity.

# Links and resources

Report property damage online at **police.tas.gov.au/reportonline**

To report a safety concern – or if there were threats and/or assault related to the incident you want to report – call the Police Assistance Line on **131 444** at any time and provide details of the incident.