



**WHAT  
HAVE YOU GOT  
TO LOSE?**

SECURE YOUR HOME

# Designing crime out of your house



## What to consider when you are going on holidays

Before you go away you probably check you have all the things you need to have an enjoyable holiday. Ensuring you have taken measures to secure your home before you leave is just as important in ensuring you have a good holiday.

The following checklist and tips will help you to consider the security of your home while you are away.

### Lock up when you leave

Deadlock doors and windows including balcony doors and garage doors. Also lock your garden shed and any side gates accessing your property.

### Make your home seem occupied

- Use timers to automatically switch on lights and radios while you are away.
- Turn down the volume on your telephone ringer and don't leave a message on your answering machine that tells callers you are away.
- Hang some old clothes on the washing line and leave a pair of old shoes outside the front door to give your house a lived in look.
- Cancel all deliveries, especially newspapers.

### Do not post your holiday plans online

- Social Networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace can be accessed by others.
- Exercise caution when putting your whereabouts online as this information can be used by burglars to determine when you are and aren't at home.

### Ask your neighbours or friends to:

- Watch for visitors, but not to tell visitors you are away.
- Contact police if they notice anything suspicious.
- Mow the lawn and water the plants so the house doesn't look empty.
- Collect mail or arrange for the post office to hold for you.
- Park their car in your driveway at intervals to give the appearance someone is home.
- Put your garbage bins out for collection.

Consider inviting a friend or relative to housesit for you.

### Install sensor lighting

Install exterior sensor lights that turn on automatically when someone approaches.

## Avoid leaving natural ladders and other items around your property

- Remove items that can be climbed to access second storey balconies and windows.
- Put away all tools and other items that could be stolen or used to gain access to your property.

## Make sure your valuables aren't visible

Conceal valuables such as laptops and jewellery so they are not visible from the outside.

## Consider your car

Secure your vehicle if leaving it at home. Don't leave your car keys in an obvious place as car theft through burglary can occur.

## Mark your property for identification

Engrave your valuables. Stolen items are harder to sell when they are marked. Property marking can also assist in recovering stolen property.

Holiday checklist	Completed
Lock all doors, windows, gates and sheds.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn down the volume on your telephone ringer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Set timers to switch on lights and the radio.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hang old clothes on the washing line and place old shoes by the front door to make your home seem occupied.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cancel all deliveries including newspapers and groceries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask a neighbour or friend to collect your mail or arrange for the post office to hold it for you.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install exterior sensor lighting.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put away all tools and ladders.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conceal valuables such as laptops and jewellery so they are not visible from the outside.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lock your vehicle.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engrave your valuables.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check if your local police offer a patrol service for unoccupied residences	<input type="checkbox"/>

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This checklist has been prepared by the Department of Attorney General and Justice for general use. We hope that through public use of the above checklist, the likelihood of crime will be reduced and personal and community security will increase. This checklist does not guarantee that all security risks have been identified or that the area evaluated will be free from criminal activity. ISBN 978-1-921301-62-9