

Neighbourhood Watch SA Weekly Bulletin

Bulletin 4

Home Security

An effective way of improving the security of your home, from the environment around the boundary to the high-value items contained within its walls, is to consider security measures for three strategic layers.

The three layers to think about are:

1. Perimeter.
2. Exterior.
3. Interior.

This process can be applied to every type of home, from the bungalow style home with gardens, to town houses, and even single student rooms found in shared houses.

At each layer the aim is to implement good security measures which will deter the offender by making it harder and riskier for them to get in and out of your home.

Each of the following sections will provide you with helpful hints to make it harder for a burglar to penetrate each of these layers.

The preferred answer to all questions is YES. Any question answered with NO indicates a weakness in your home security.

Perimeter

- Is the area around the house free from items that an offender could use to break in i.e. bricks, ladders, garden tools?
- Are sheds, garages and outbuildings locked at all times?
- Have you trimmed trees and plantings to provide good surveillance from the road?
- Are vehicles at the premises secured with all belongings removed when not in use?
- If you have a garage, is it used to secure the vehicle(s) inside, as opposed to being used as a storage space?

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Exterior

- Are doors kept locked with keys removed?
- Do you avoid leaving spare keys in accessible places, i.e. under plant pots, door mat or stone?
- When you are outside do you lock all doors and windows?
- Are ground floor and accessible windows closed and locked?
- If you have an alarm fitted, do you always use it?
- Do you have exterior security lighting fitted?

Interior

- Do you use lights with timer switches when leaving the house unoccupied?
- Are items such as cash, car keys, laptops, jewellery and phones kept out of view and in a safe location?
- Do you avoid leaving high value items, including jewellery in obvious places, i.e. in jewellery boxes in the bedroom?
- Have you created a written and photographic record of items of value?
- Have you marked valuable items with your driver's licence number prefixed with the letter 'S' for South Australia using an engraver or ultra violet pen?

SA Police is committed to working with the community to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime. Please see our Home security [booklet](#) and other crime prevention booklets, fact sheets and posters here:

www.police.sa.gov.au/safety-and-security-tips

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