



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES

PREVENTING CRIME

HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST



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**Government
of South Australia**

PREVENTING CRIME

Please answer each question in this Home Security Checklist.

	YES	NO	COMMENTS
HOUSE NUMBER			
1 Is the house number clearly visible from the street?			
2 Is the house number easy to see at night?			
LANDSCAPING			
3 Can people see the home clearly from the street? Are trees and shrubs neatly trimmed, so windows and doors are visible from the street?			
4 Could a person attempting to hide in your yard be easily detected?			
5 Is the yard tidy, does the house look lived in?			
LETTER BOX AND POWER BOARD			
6 Is the letter box fitted with a lock?			
7 Is the letter box emptied daily?			
8 Is the power board secured with a lock approved by your electricity authority?			
LIGHTING			
9 Is there security lighting installed to the front and rear of the home?			
10 Is it properly adjusted and working effectively?			
11 Are entry and exit points adequately lit?			
12 Does the lighting provide adequate coverage to dark areas?			
13 Do you have light timers?			
14 Do you have operating torches in easy to reach locations in your house in the event of a power outage? (Smartphones have a 'torch' function on them).			
FENCES AND GATES			
15 Are fences in good condition?			
16 Are fences constructed at an appropriate height?			
17 Are gates able to be secured?			
18 Consider putting a 'Beware of the dog' sticker(s) on your fences/gates, even if you don't have a dog.			

SUGGESTED TREATMENTS

HOUSE NUMBER

- The house number should be prominently displayed at the front of your home, (including rear of premises if you live in a block of units/ apartments with rear yard access).
- The number should be visible at night.
- The number could also be painted on the street kerb outside your home to assist emergency services and visitors to locate your home.

LANDSCAPING

- Trees and shrubs should be trimmed to reduce hiding places and increase visibility to and from the street.
- Overhanging branches should be trimmed to prevent people using them to access other parts of the property, e.g. using a tree to get to an upper level of the house.

LETTER BOX AND POWER BOARD

- Fit your letter box with a lock to restrict access to mail.
- Empty your letter box daily.
- The power board should be housed within a cabinet to restrict tampering with the power supply.
- If possible the cabinet should be secured with a lock approved by your electricity authority, e.g. SA Power Networks (SAPN) - Master key.

LIGHTING

- Security lighting should be installed around the perimeter of the property to provide more effective illumination during the hours of darkness, with additional security lighting installed over entry and exit points.
- Internal and external security lighting should be checked, cleaned of debris (e.g. spider webs) and maintained in good working order.
- Consider using internal and external timers for lights when not at home.



DOORS

- External doors and frames should be of solid construction.
- These doors should be fitted with a quality deadlock, which complies with the Australia/ New Zealand Standards and Fire Regulations (Australian Building Code) to enable occupants to escape in emergency situations such as fires. www.mfs.sa.gov.au
- Consider having a wide range peep hole (door viewer) installed to monitor people at the front and rear door.
- Security/screen doors can be used to provide additional protection. The doors should be designed and installed to the Australian Standards.
- Consider installing doors with one-way viewing mesh.
- Consider installing patio bolts on sliding doors.
- Consider having ALL your dead lock keys to be 'alike' if you don't have the internal lever.
- Consider a security screen for side glass panels on a front door.
- Locks should be checked and maintained on a regular basis to ensure they are in good working order.

- Keys should be removed from locks while you are absent to prevent thieves entering or leaving home.
- Regularly test the volume of your doorbell (internally) and check the battery.

WINDOWS

- External windows and frames should be of solid construction and anchored to the building to prevent easy removal.
- It is recommended that all windows be fitted with quality key-operated locks and kept locked when not in use.
- Thieves may break glass to unlock windows. Don't leave keys in the locks.
- Some styles of windows can be locked in a partially open position. Further advice on this item can be obtained from your insurance company or a locksmith.
- Keep skylights to your home suitably secured.
- Glass within doors and windows may also be reinforced to restrict unauthorised access via these areas.
- The existing glass can be reinforced internally with a shatter-resistant adhesive film or replaced with laminated glass to reduce attacks and restrict access.
- Metal security grilles or shutters may be installed to restrict access and reduce attacks. Note: caution should be exercised if you decide to install metal security grilles or screens. If they are not properly installed, they can trap occupants in an emergency such as a fire.

INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEMS

- An intruder alarm system can be used to enhance the physical security of your home.
- The system should be designed to provide maximum coverage of the home and garage.

- Remember to regularly check the battery and test the system.
- Research has shown that monitored intruder alarm systems are more effective as they alert your security company of intrusions.
- The intruder alarm system should be manufactured and installed to the Australian and New Zealand Standards for Domestic Applications.
- Display alarm stickers on doors and windows.

FENCES AND GATES

- Fences can be used to define the property boundaries and restrict access to the property.
- Fences and gates should be constructed to meet your needs and requirements.
- Front fences should be of open-style construction to increase visibility onto the property.
- Consider the use of locks and self-closing gates.
- Fences and gates should be regularly maintained to maximise their effectiveness and working order.
- Consider vertical slats or tubular style fences opposed to horizontal styles that may be used as a ladder.
- Consider displaying 'Beware of dogs' sticker(s).



GARAGE, GARDEN SHED & RUBBISH BINS

- The garage and garden shed should be locked to restrict access and theft.
- Roller, tilt and panel-lift doors can be secured with additional locks in the form of hasp and staple or padlocks.
- Windows within garages and garden sheds should also be fitted with quality locks to restrict access.
- Garden tools, equipment and ladders should be locked away when not in use to prevent them being used to gain access to your home.
- Consider putting screens on windows or bars on louvre windows.
- Consider installing sensor lights around your garage/garden sheds and driveway.
- Lock cars while in the garage.
- Lock doors between the garage and the main house.
- Consider placing a Neighbourhood Watch SA sticker on the side of your council bins.

TELEPHONE, SAFES, KEYS AND VALUABLES

- Pre-program the emergency number Triple Zero (000) into your phone speed dial function.
- For added security for valuables such as jewellery, cash and documents, consider installing a safe.
- The safe should be well concealed and fixed to the floor or embedded in foundations.
- The safe should not be left open for convenience. The key to the safe should be stored out of sight in a secure location.
- House keys, car keys and garage remote controls should be kept in a safe location, as thieves may use them to gain entry to your home or to steal your car.

- Limit the amount of cash kept at home, as it is often targeted by thieves and is often not covered by your insurance.
- Secure jewellery away in a safe place or a safe.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

- Consider using an engraver, ultra-violet (UV) pen or micro dot technology to mark valuables.
- Consider marking your property with your driver's licence number, prefixed by the letter 'S' for South Australia, e.g. S123456.
- For items that cannot be engraved, e.g. ceramics, antiques, etc. mark with a UV pen.
- Photograph jewellery with a ruler beside it or a \$1.00 coin to give an indication of the actual size.
- Photograph all your property for insurance and police identification purposes.
- Record all details on the Property Record in this booklet and keep it in a safe place.
- Provide a copy of your recorded information to a trusted family member or friend.

CONCLUSION

By completing this assessment and implementing suggested treatments you are helping to reduce the opportunity of a home break-in.

SAPOL encourages you to obtain your own independent advice as to the safety and security of your home. Should you require further information on the subjects listed in this assessment, please contact your local police station.

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	YES	NO	COMMENTS
DOORS			
19 Are external doors of solid construction?			
20 Are door frames of solid construction?			
21 Are quality key-operated locks fitted?			
22 Is a wide-angled peep hole (door viewer) installed in the front and rear door?			
23 Are locks in good working order?			
24 Are keys removed from locks when no-one is at home?			
25 Is a security/screen door installed with an Australian Standard secure mesh screen?			
26 Is there a Perspex panel fitted near the door handle on the inside of the mesh security door?			
27 Does the security door have a three-pin locking system?			
28 Are sliding doors fitted with suitable keyed locks?			
WINDOWS			
29 Are windows solidly constructed?			
30 Are windows fitted with key-operated locks?			
31 Can the keys be removed from the locks?			
32 Are unused windows permanently closed and secured?			
33 Are windows able to be locked open at a width of no more than 10cm?			
34 Are skylights suitably secured?			
35 If you have louvre style windows – are they fitted with security screens or bars?			
INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEMS			
36 Is an intruder alarm system installed?			
37 Is the alarm tested regularly?			
38 Is the alarm system monitored?			
39 Is the alarm operating effectively?			
40 Does the alarm system cover the garage?			

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	YES	NO	COMMENTS
SMOKE ALARMS			
41 Does your premises have photo-electric smoke alarms that are hardwired to the 240 volt power supply? Your smoke alarms should comply with the Australian Standards 3786. Look for the 'five (5) ticks' symbol on the packaging to ensure it's a certified product.			
GARAGE, GARDEN SHED & RUBBISH BINS			
42 Can the garden shed be locked?			
43 Are windows within the garage secured?			
44 Are tools, gardening equipment, ladders, etc. locked away when not in use?			
45 Do you have a sensor light on your garage/shed and rear yard?			
46 Consider placing a Neighbourhood Watch SA sticker on the side of your council bins.			
47 Are your rubbish bins brought in soon after collection or at least on the same day?			
VEHICLES			
48 Is the vehicle locked at all times, even in your driveway, gated front yard and/or garage? Avoid parking in the street if possible.			
49 Are spare car keys out of sight and secured?			
50 Are all valuables removed from your car when not in use?			
TELEPHONE, SAFES, KEYS AND VALUABLES			
51 Are your telephones pre-programmed with emergency contact numbers?			
52 Do you have a phone near your bed for emergencies?			
53 Do you have a safe installed?			
54 Is the safe out of view?			
55 Is the safe securely anchored?			
56 Are your keys and valuables adequately secured?			

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	YES	NO	COMMENTS
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION			
58 Have you recorded details of your valuable household items?			
59 Is your property marked for easy identification?			
60 Is your property photographed for easy identification?			
61 Do you have adequate insurance?			

For more information on smoke alarms contact the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS):
Community Safety and Resilience
Department: (08) 8204 3611
Country Callers: 1300 737 637
Email: samfscommunitysafety@

For more information visit
www.police.sa.gov.au

EMERGENCIES

Call **Triple Zero (000)** when there is an emergency.

For example, any situation where life or injury is threatened or any event that may cause danger to people or property.

NON-EMERGENCIES

Call **131 444** for non-urgent police assistance. For example, reporting a crime that has already happened or reporting a missing person.



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**Neighbourhood
Watch SA**

a safe and connected community



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