

# Fact Sheet

## Security Around the Home

Break-ins are often opportunistic, meaning the offender will commit a crime if the opportunity such as an unlocked door or window presents itself.

The best way to assess your home is to look at it through the eyes of a potential offender. The following checklist is intended to assist you in determining what steps can be taken to reduce the opportunity for a crime to occur in and around your home.

### Starting from the roadway/footpath leading to your home

#### Is your house number clearly visible from the road?

Consider cutting back trees and bushes that obscure your front door and displaying your house number in a more visible location to assist emergency services if they need to attend your house.

#### Are there any potential hiding places in or around your property?

Remove or minimise potential hiding places by cutting back trees and bushes that could be used for cover. Choose smaller bushes and flowers instead. Additionally, consider removing trees or bushes close to your windows to further increase visibility.

#### Are the gates to your yard locked and your shed, garage and tools properly secured with locks?

Consider replacing/purchasing locks to help deter unlawful entry from occurring.



#### Is there a clear boundary between your property and public areas (footpaths)?

Consider how small plantings, garden edging or fencing (that does not block visibility of your house) could make the boundary clearer. Clearly defining your boundary can help to deter people from trespassing either accidentally or intentionally on your property.

#### Check to see if you have any unsecured items in your yard/driveway.

Do you have anything that can be easily stolen? For example, children's toys or bikes left out, unlocked vehicles in driveway or unsecured tool boxes in work vehicles. Ask your children to leave their bikes out of view and off the roadway. Ensure that your vehicles are locked at all times and ensure that tools and tool boxes are secured.

## Assess the exterior of your home

### Do you have outdoor lighting at the main entry/exits of your home?

Consider installing a form of sensor lighting at all entries (front and back), along pathways, and near the garage and other outdoor structures. This creates the illusion that someone is home and may help deter offenders from targeting your home.

### Do you have secure and lockable security doors and screens?

Check the quality of your door and window security regularly. Security doors and screens provide an added layer of security. Also make sure to educate those you are living with on the importance of locking doors and windows.

Did you know that between 2018 - 2019 40% of break ins in Australia were through an unlocked door and 35% were through an unlocked window?

On average, it takes an offender less than 5 minutes to enter a property.

### Do you have security cameras installed?

Consider installing security cameras to deter offenders. If this is not an affordable solution for you, consider instead installing signage that states that your property is being monitored or that surveillance is in place.

**Are there any natural ladders which can be climbed to access upper levels of your home? For example, sturdy trees very close to upper windows and wheelie bins which can be climbed on?**

Consider trimming or removing lower branches of trees to ensure it is harder to climb and always ensure that wheelie bins are stored well away so they can't be used to climb on to access upper windows.

### Does your home look vacant?

Maintain the appearance that your home is not vacant by bringing in the mail regularly and not leaving the bins out for extended periods of time.

## Assess inside your home

### Do you have your house and vehicle keys and/or garage remotes out of sight or are they on a hook or in a bowl close to the front door?

Always store your keys out of view and away from external doors and windows. Never leave your garage remote or a spare set of house or car keys in your car. If an offender does break into your home, a key bowl or hook will be one of the first places they look!



### Are your valuables secure and stored out of public view? For example, they can't be seen through a window.

Consider placing your valuables out of sight, such as in a safe or a secured drawer. Valuable items on display or in view from either the yard, door or window can attract opportunistic offenders.

## Have you engraved your belongings with a form of personal identification (e.g. name/initials)?

Consider marking your belongings. Personal identification will aid the police with investigation and will help with the return of your items if they are stolen.

## Crime prevention around the home

- Ensure sheds are locked and ladders are securely stored.
- Secure any 'natural ladders', such as garbage bins, away from upper level windows and doors.
- If there is a door between the garage and the house, ensure it is securely locked at all times.
- Always lock windows and doors, not only when you're out but also when at home, especially if you are not in the vicinity of the door.
- Always bring your mail, newspapers and bins inside your property. If left on the footpath it creates the perception that the property is unoccupied.
- Be aware of who lives in your street and take note of anyone you observe in the street who you do not believe lives there.
- Acknowledge people in your area, especially if you don't know them. Offenders who know they have been seen will likely leave the area for fear of being recognised.
- If you have a security system installed display signage on entry points to deter unlawful entry.

## Useful safety contacts

Policelink: 131 444  
Emergencies (Triple zero): 000  
Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000  
Hoon hotline: 134 666

### More Information:

3412 3412  
council@logan.qld.gov.au  
[logan.qld.gov.au](http://logan.qld.gov.au)