

Home Security

Holiday Checklist

Lock up when leaving

- ☐ Lock all doors, windows, gates, sheds, pet doors, skylights, and other access points.
- ☐ If leaving a car at home, lock it and secure it in a garage or behind locked gates.
- ☐ If you have a garage, make sure the main and access doors are both securely locked.
- ☐ Remove any spare keys hidden outside your home.

Create the impression that someone is at home

- ☐ Keep your lawn mown and trim the shrubs and bushes around the front entrance.
- ☐ Set timers to turn lamps and lights on and off at night.
- ☐ Use timers to turn your radio or TV on and off throughout the day.
- ☐ Turn down the volume on your telephone ringer and turn off alarm clocks.
- ☐ Check or install motion sensor lights at front and rear entries.

Stop any regular deliveries

- ☐ Cancel any regular deliveries, such as newspapers or food.
- ☐ Arrange with Australia Post to have your mail redirected or held at the post office.
- ☐ Organise a trusted neighbour, family member or friend to collect your mail whilst away.

Hide valuables out of sight

- ☐ Keep valuables like laptops, jewellery and keys out of view from windows and doors.
- ☐ Store tools, ladders, and other items securely so they can't be used to break into your home.

Ask neighbours, friends or family to

- ☐ Put your bins out on collection day and bring them in afterwards.
- ☐ Adjust blinds or shutters throughout the day to give the home a lived-in look.
- ☐ House sit for you or check on your property on regular intervals.

Don't advertise your absence

- ☐ Set your social media profiles to private and remove any unknown followers.
- ☐ Avoid sharing holiday plans or updates publicly on social media.
- ☐ Update voicemail and email autoreplies to remove any mention of being away.

Neighbourhood Watch ACT has developed this checklist to support residents in minimising the risk of home burglary during periods of absence. While it offers practical guidance, it does not ensure that every security vulnerability has been addressed or that following all suggestions will make a property entirely safe from criminal activity.