

# HOME SECURITY KIT

## Break and Enter Prevention Program

Welcome to Inner West Council's Home Security Kit. While most of us will never experience a break and enter on our home, we believe that by planning and implementing the enclosed security strategies, you can reduce the chance of this happening to your home.

Inside this kit you will find:

- **Home Security Checklist**
- **Home Security Guide**
- **Property Identification fact sheet**

To strengthen and equip the community, Council will host Safety Forums throughout the year. This is a great opportunity for you to gain valuable information regarding safety and security in your community. The Safety Forums will also give you the opportunity to voice your concerns. Please look out for event notices on Council's website and social media sites.

You can also contact Council with any safety concerns you may have by phoning 9392 5000 or visiting our website at [www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au](http://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

By picking up this kit you are taking the first step in helping to increase safety and wellbeing in our community.



# HOME SECURITY KIT

## Home Security Checklist

Carry out an inspection of your home to identify areas where security and safety could be improved. If you tick 'no' in any of the areas below, consider the Home Security Guide in this kit. You can also contact Council or the local police for more information.

### Doors and Windows

#### Security Screens

Do you have a security screen or grille at the front and rear of your home that features triple locks?

Yes  No

#### Exterior Entry Doors

Are the main exterior entry doors of solid construction?

Are external entry doors fitted with standard deadlocks?

Has a wide-angle door viewer been fitted?

Are keys removed from locks when no one is at home?

Are sliding doors fitted with patio bolts?

#### Windows

Do the windows have key-operated locks

Can all the windows be locked with the same Key?

Are security screens installed?

Are unused windows permanently closed and secured?

Are skylights suitably secured?

#### Other

Is the garage/tool shed/side gate securely locked?

Is the meter box locked?

#### Property Identification

Are there valuable household items marked for police identification?

Have you photographed these items?

Have you made a list of your valuable items?



### Security Lighting and Alarms

	Yes	No
Is there security lighting installed around your building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there lighting at main entry and exits to your building or premises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the house have an automatic light-timer or sensor-activated lights?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a security alarm system that is serviced regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Other Safety Considerations

Is the house number clearly visible from the street?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could offenders be seen in the front or backyard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are emergency numbers keyed into your telephone or saved to your mobile?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are warning signs displayed around the perimeter of your property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# HOME SECURITY KIT

## Home Security Guide

The Home Security Guide is designed to work in conjunction with the Home Security Checklist, providing suggestions on how to minimise the risk of break and enters on your home. You can also contact Council or the local Police for more information.

### Security Screens

- Security screens or grilles can deter intruders from entering your home, and provided they are kept locked, allow you to communicate with unfamiliar visitors without letting them inside your home.
- Some security screens feature a triple locking system which increases the strength and security level of your doors.

### Doors and Windows

- Maintenance of doors and windows ensure they are in good working order, so check the frames and locks on a regular basis.
- Doors and windows should be locked whenever you leave the house. Even when you are at home, on the phone, or in the garden, locking doors and windows will deter intruders from entering your home.
- Windows should be locked whenever they are not in use. Glass may be coated with security film or replaced with laminated glass which can reduce breaks and restrict access.
- Similarly, if you have skylights to your home, keep them suitably security.
- Standard deadlocks should be high quality and installed by qualified locksmiths to ensure maximum security. Equally, sliding and partition doors should be fitted with quality patio locks that can be secured with a key.
- Door viewers help you see who is outside your front door before you open it. If you don't recognise your visitor, don't open the door but ask them to show identification or come back another time when you can arrange someone else to be with you.
- Keys should always be removed from locks while you are out to prevent thieves entering or leaving through the doors.



## Other

- Sheds and garages usually store tools and other implements that burglars can use to break in so it is important to keep them security locks, with a padlock if possible. If your home can be accessed through the garage, ensure the door is always locked, especially when the garage is open.
- Side gates are often overlooked and should also be appropriately secured.
- Locking up your meter box prevents thieves interfering with your power supply or security sensor light system.

## Property identification

- Mark and valuable household items with an ultraviolet pen or have them engraved. It is harder for thieves to sell property that has personal identification and if Police recover marked property, it is easier to claim your items.
- Photographing and recording the details of these items can also assist in their recovery if stolen.

## Security Lighting & Alarms

- Security lighting should be installed around the perimeter of the property to provide more effective illumination at night.
- Additional security lighting should be installed, particularly over entry and exit points to your home.
- You may also consider the use of light timers that turn lights on and off when not at home.
- 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.

## Other Safety Considerations

- Trees and shrubs should be trimmed to reduce hiding places and increase visibility to and from the street.
- Ensure your house number is visible so that if you have to call the Police or other emergency services, they can find your house quickly.
- Program the speed dial function on your telephone with the emergency telephone number 000 or place a sticker on your phone listing emergency numbers and your local police number for easy access.
- Some mobile phones may require you to dial 112 for emergency services, so check with your mobile provider and save the correct number in your mobile phone.
- People with a hearing or speech impairment should dial 106 for text operated emergency assistance.

# HOME SECURITY KIT

## Property Identification Fact Sheet

Property identification involves marking your valuable property with your name and/or driver's licence number and keeping records of identifiers such as:

- Manufacturer
- Model name/number
- Serial number
- Colour

### Why mark and record my valuable items?

Marking your valuable property makes it difficult for stolen items to be offloaded and helps Police to recover and return items. Property can be marked with an engraving tool or with an invisible ultraviolet marker pen.

Recording the details of your valuables will speed up any insurance claims and assist Police in identifying stolen items.

Items you may consider marking and recording are:

- Cameras
- Television, DVD player and accessories
- Kitchen goods
- Audio equipment
- Games consoles
- Garden and power tools
- Pushbikes and motorcycles
- General household valuables
- Home office equipment
- Leisure and sports equipment

Items difficult to mark should be photographed and recorded in your inventory list. Items to photograph may include:

- Jewellery
- Antiques
- Watches
- Paintings and other artwork
- Collections, coins, stamps etc



