

Home Security

Know your neighbours. Neighbours are often the first to notice when something is wrong.

Thieves hate bright lights. Install outside lights & keep them on at night. Put your lights on timers or photosensitive switches that turn them on at night even if you're not at home. Consider motion sensors that turn on lights or set off alarms.

Get a dog. Even if your dogs are not "bad" they can be an excellent alarm system.

Keep your fences in good repair & your gate closed.

Keep your yard clean; prune back bushes near gates, doors & windows. Cut back tree limbs that may allow access to an upper floor window.

Keep equipment like hoses, lawn mowers, etc. out of view from the street.

Do not leave handbags, wallets, keys, etc. near windows where they maybe "fished" out.

Exterior doors should be of solid wood or even metal & should fit snugly & be in good repair. Install two locks or bolt top & bottom.

Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in your front door. Door chains break easily & don't keep out intruders.

Install a good alarm system if you can afford it. Use a reputable company & ask for references. Alternatively, motion sensors that turn on a light or set off an alarm can be used. A personal alarm or air horn kept in an accessible place is also useful. Learn how to use your system properly so as not to set off false alarms.

Do not leave a message on your voice mail indicating that you are out; say "I'm not available right now". Instruct children & helpers to do the same.

Do not open your door to someone you don't know, speak to them through a window or from behind a grill. If they say they are a repairman, etc. ask for proof or ask them to come back another time.

Make a list of all your valuables including serial numbers of electronic items. Take photos of jewellery & other small valuables.