

# Community Safety Committee



## Working together for a Safe Community

You don't have to be a security expert to keep your house safe from burglars. There are simple things you can do to improve your home security.

### **KEEP YOUR HOME LOCKED**

Did you know that a majority of the time, burglars get in to your home through an open window or an unlocked door? Lock your home whether you are in it or out.

### **APPEAR TO BE HOME**

If you leave the house, leave a radio or television on and turn on the lights. If you are planning on going away for an extended period of time, don't broadcast your plans on Facebook, cancel your newspaper, ask a trusted neighbour to collect your mail and put out your bin, divert your home phone to your mobile or another number and even consider leaving some old shoes outside the front door!

### **PUT YOUR RUBBISH IN THE BIN**

If you leave boxes on the curb or sticking out of your wheelie bin you are advertising to burglars that you have bought new goods. Always cut boxes into pieces before recycling!

### **NEVER LEAVE A SPARE KEY OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE**

Burglars will always look for hidden keys, so leave your house key with a trusted friend or neighbour.

### **NATURAL SURVEILLANCE**

Burglars don't want to be seen so lights will deter them. Keep trees trimmed and shrubs low so that they have no places to hide. Make sure you that your fence is at a height that allows neighbours and passer-bys to spot intruders.

### **MAKE YOUR PROPERTY IDENTIFIABLE**

Marking your goods makes it easier for you to identify and recover your property. It also makes it harder for burglars to resell stolen goods. You should mark your property with something that is linked to you, like your drivers license number. Property marking pens are available to loan from Share and Care Northam and also the Northam and Wundowie Libraries. Keep a hardcopy list and photographs of your property and include all of your small valuable items such as jewellery, as these items are the main target of burglars because they can place them easily in their pocket and carry them away without hindrance.

### **LOCK YOUR SHED, GARAGE AND GARDEN SHED**

Don't let a burglar steal your tools or use them to break into your house.

### **CONSIDER GETTING A DOG**

A dogs can be a great warning that something is wrong, so burglars avoid homes with dogs. Dogs are also a big responsibility, so make sure you and your home are prepared before you take up this idea.

### **BURGLAR ALARM**

Installing a burglar alarm can scare off burglars and minimise the time that they are able to spend inside your house. Make sure your alarm is easy to see from the street , is loud, monitored and is switched on.

### **CONSIDER STARTING A 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH' IN YOUR STREET**

This is a program that involves the community and the police working together to reduce crime and to improve safety in your neighbourhood. Your group does not need to be as formal as Neighbourhood Watch though ... just a coordinated small group of people in your street who can keeping an eye on things and communicate with each other and report suspicious behaviour.

# HOME SECURITY ASSESSMENT GUIDE

To support residents in taking an active role in reducing the opportunity for crime, the Shire of Northam's Community Safety Committee has developed a Home Security Assessment Guide which can be used to identify security issues in their home.

It is recommended that the completed form is then taken to your local hardware store for advice on cost effective products to assist with securing your home.

No.	Question	Yes	No	N/A	Comment
-----	----------	-----	----	-----	---------

## STREET NUMBER

1	Is the street number clearly visible from the street?				
2	Is the street number visible at night?				

## WARNING SIGNS

3	Are warning signs displayed?				
4	Are warning signs appropriate?				

## FENCES AND GATES

5	Are perimeter fences in good condition?				
6	Can gates be secured?				

## LANDSCAPING

7	Can people see your home clearly from the street?				
8	Could a person be seen hiding in your yard?				

## SECURITY LIGHTING

9	Is there security lighting installed?				
10	Does the security lighting work?				
11	Are entry and exit points adequately lit?				
12	Do you have light timers?				

## LETTERBOX/POWERBOX

13	Is the letterbox fitted with a lock?				
14	Is the power board enclosed within a cabinet?				
15	Is the cabinet fitted with an approved lock?				

## SHED/GARAGE

16	Can the garage be locked?				
17	Is the garden shed anchored to the ground?				
18	Can the garden shed be locked?				
19	Are tools, gardening equipment, ladders, etc. locked away when not in use?				
20	Are windows within the garage fitted with window locks?				

No.	Question	Yes	No	N/A	Comment
<b>DOORS</b>					
21	Are external doors of solid construction?				
22	Are door frames of solid construction?				
23	Is a peep hole (door viewer) installed?				
24	Are locks in good working order?				
25	Are keys removed from locks when no person is at home?				
26	Is a security/screen door installed?				
27	Are sliding doors fitted with suitable locks?				

## WINDOWS

28	Are windows solidly constructed?				
29	Are window locks fitted?				If no, how many windows require locks?
30	Are unused windows permanently closed and secured?				
31	Are windows able to be locked in a partially open position?				
32	Are skylights suitably secured?				

## PROPERTY ID

33	Have you recorded details of your household items?				
34	Is your property engraved for easy identification?				
35	Is your property photographed for easy identification?				
36	Do you have insurance?				
37	Are your property list and photographs adequately secured?				

## KEYS/VALUABLES

38	Do you have a safe installed?				
39	Is the safe securely anchored?				
40	Is the safe out of view?				
41	Are keys out of view when your home is not occupied?				
42	Is your jewellery secured?				

## INTRUDER ALARMS

43	Is an intruder alarm system installed?				If no, skip this section.
44	Is the intruder alarm system monitored?				
45	Is the intruder alarm system operating?				
46	Is the intruder alarm system used?				
47	Does the intruder alarm system cover the garage?				

## OTHER

48	Are your telephones pre-programmed with emergency contact numbers?				
----	--	--	--	--	--