



Home Security Tips

Moving house can leave you more vulnerable to a robbery if you haven't taken some simple precautions on your arrival. Most burglars look for a quick and easy opportunity. If you remove this 'ease' from your property, chances are they'll move on and not bother with your new home.

The following are general tips when moving to a new house:

- When you move into your new home, consider getting your locks changed with new keys. You don't know how many other people still have keys to your new house.
- All external doors should have double cylinder deadlocks or dead latches. Choose deadlocks that you can open from the inside without a key so you can make a fast exit if needed.
- Window security screens can be installed to deter entry through windows. Consider choosing a style that can still be opened outwards from the inside without a key.
- Look at installing key operated window locks on all windows. Ensure that keys are easily accessible in case an exit is needed.
- A security door on your main entrance is a good idea, so you can open a door and still have a barrier between you and the person outside. Peep holes are also a good idea.
- Make sure your house looks occupied when you're not at home. Don't draw your curtains during the day. Have a light timer set for evenings. Turn the volume of your telephone ringer down. Empty your letterbox regularly. Consider getting a lock on your letterbox.
- Consider installing a security alarm system.
- If your electricity meter box is outside, lock it so people don't have access to your lights or alarm system electrics.
- Repair holes in fences and gates around your property.
- Consider installing exterior sensor lighting.
- Don't give out spare keys to tradespeople and don't hide spare keys in too obvious a spot.
- Trim your trees and shrubs around your property.
- Check your property for areas that could be used as access points like lattice, trees, wheelie bins and fences.
- Lock up outside type equipment like bicycles, surfboards and power tools.
- Don't give out information about yourself to people that you don't know very well.
- Remind your family to lock up when they are inside the house or when they leave, even for a short period of time.
- Don't store your valuables like your wallet, handbag, phone etc in an area of your house that is easily visible from the outside.
- Get to know your neighbours quickly. An observant neighbour can be a great asset here.
- If you go on vacation, inform someone you know well so they can collect your mail and check on your property regularly.
- You could consider marking or engraving your valuables. Your local Police Station should be able to help you with advice on this.
- Moving house gives you a good opportunity to make a list of your valuables and to take photos. You can write down serial and model number of household appliances.
- Now is also a good time to check that your Contents insurance is up to date.

OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- If your new home has a pool, ensure that it is thoroughly checked for safety and that it complies with your local council requirements.
- Install smoke alarms in your new home.

NOTE: This information is general advice only. Readers should exercise their own care when moving house.

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