

// HOLIDAY SECURITY

“ I heard about some people who were going on holiday, and figured their place would be easy to break into... When I got there, I wasn't sure if they was home or not, because there weren't any mail stickin' out the box, and some of the lights was on... I hung around for a bit, but then I noticed the neighbours was watching me, so I got out of there.”



Tips

- You should leave your contact details with a trusted neighbour or relative.
- Ensure all doors and windows are securely locked, preferably with deadlocks and keyed window locks. Dowel rods cut to measure can be placed in window and sliding door tracks for extra security.
- Turn down the volume of your telephone ring and answering machine. Do not leave a message on your answering machine saying that you are away.
- Consider having someone house-sit while you are away.
- Arrange for someone to clear out your letterbox and occasionally park a car in your driveway. Alternatively, you can have your mail held or re-directed by your local post office.
- Cancel all deliveries such as newspapers and milk.
- Arrange for someone to cut your lawn and water your garden.
- Consider installing automatic timing devices for lights, radios and TVs to help give the impression that the home is still occupied. Timing devices are relatively inexpensive and readily available from department and hardware stores.
- Make arrangements with a trusted neighbour or house-sitter to put out and collect your bin during normal service times.
- Disconnect the electrical supply on radio controlled or electronic garage doors and engage manual locks instead.
- Touch or sound-activated lamps should be disconnected whilst you're away, as they can be a fire hazard if there is a power fluctuation or thunder storm.
- Don't leave house keys concealed inside or outside the house. Leave them with a trusted friend or neighbour.
- If your house has a monitored alarm advise your alarm monitoring centre of the contact person/key holder whilst you are away.
- Lock up garden tools and ladders which could be used to enter your house.
- Consider placing valuables in a safe or bank safety deposit box.

