

Security hints for you and your home



You can live more confidently in your home by being aware of possible security problems and knowing what to do about them.



This brochure cannot cover every aspect of home security. The following page lists some Queensland Police Service brochures that provide more detailed information. It also suggests how to obtain more information and help with home security through Home Assist Secure.

With this information and advice, you will be better able to decide the important changes needed for your particular home and your particular needs.

Outside your home

Your house number should be clearly visible from the street, for example on the kerb, fence, house or letterbox.

Lock your garage and lock away garden tools, wheelie bins and ladders. Make sure you can see your front door and windows from the street by trimming your trees and shrubs and choosing a suitable fence design.

Lighting

Consider installing a light over your front entrance, with an inside switch, so you can see visitors at night. Consider installing sensor lighting which will turn on automatically when somebody arrives.

Doors

External doors should be of solid construction (not hollow). If you have a hollow door, consider fitting a high quality security door.

If you want to leave your front or back doors open, fit high quality security screen doors. When at home, secure your doors from the inside. Plan how you would get out quickly in an emergency.

If you do not have security doors, have a door viewer (peephole) installed so you can see who is on the other side of the door.

Fit your external doors with deadlocks, where possible keyed alike so that one key opens them all.

Windows

Fit key operated locks on all windows. Where possible, have them keyed alike so that one key opens them all.



Plan to take simple precautions so that you feel safe and more secure in your home



Fit high quality security grilles to louvre windows or windows that you want to leave open for ventilation. One or two of these grilles should be hinged so you can get out in an emergency.

When you go out

Make it look as if someone is home, leave a light, radio or TV on. Consider buying an automatic timer to turn lights or TV on and off when you are not home. Always lock all doors and windows (reminder list may be useful in helping you remember).

Do not leave messages on doors. Never leave a key under a door mat, flower pot or other obvious hiding place. Leave a spare key with a trusted neighbour or friend.

Around your home

Identify your property

Mark your property (e.g. keys, power tools, radio) in the way described by the Queensland Police Service Property Identification brochure. You can obtain the use of an engraving tool free of charge from your local police station.

The telephone

Do not let strangers who ring know that you are alone or when you will be away. Do not give them personal or financial information. Consider installing a phone extension in your bedroom.

Leave a list of emergency numbers next to your phone, including the number of a neighbour or nearby relative. If you own a touch phone, key in emergency numbers so you can dial them quickly by pressing one button.

Unexpected visitors

Do not open the door until you know who is on the other side. Always ask to see an identification card before letting a stranger into your home. If you are in doubt, telephone their organisation to check.

Do not let strangers know that you are home alone.

You have the right to ask a person to leave your property. If they refuse, you can ring your local police station and make a complaint.

Neighbourhood network

Being on good terms with your neighbours can be helpful if you need assistance quickly. A trusted neighbour can help in other ways, for example watching your house if you are away.

Intruder security alarms

Alarms should not be used instead of other good security measures. If you have a security system, make use of it and have it serviced regularly.

Information for renters

Home Assist Secure does not undertake work that is considered to be the responsibility of the landlord (lessor) under residential tenancies legislation or other tenancy agreements.

If you live in rental accommodation, please discuss the hints in this brochure with your landlord (lessor) to see if they will undertake the work. If the lessor will not undertake the work, you will need to check if the lessor's approval is required prior to the work being undertaken.

More information and help

If you would like more information about security or safety issues, visit the Queensland Police Service website www.police.qld.gov.au and click on Programs. Brochures on these topics are also available to download at this location.

For further advice on crime prevention or home security you can talk to your District Crime Prevention Coordinator or Station Community Crime Reduction Officer, by contacting your local police station.



Home Assist Secure

The Queensland Government introduced Home Assist Secure in 1993 to improve the security and quality of life of older people and people with a disability.

Home Assist Secure will help you to:

- make more informed decisions about home maintenance, repairs, and modifications
- feel safer living at home
- have easier access to and within your home
- increase your confidence about employing tradespeople

Home Assist Secure provides safety related information, referrals and subsidised assistance to eligible clients unable to undertake or pay for critical maintenance services without assistance.

Who can use these services?

To be eligible for free information and referrals, you must be a home owner or live in rental housing and be:

- 60 years or over; or
- of any age with a disability.

In addition to the above, to receive subsidised assistance for work in your home, you need to be:

- hold a pensioner concession card and be unable to complete the work yourself
- Unable to access assistance from family and friends or other services. For example Commonwealth Home Support Program or Queensland Community Care Services.

Home Assist Secure services are located throughout the State.

For more information, contact your local Home Assist Secure Provider by calling 13 QGOV or visiting www.hpw.qld.gov.au

Or ring the number below: