

## **Coffs Coast Screens & Doors**

### **SECURITY CHECKLIST**

According to the NSW bureau of crime statistics a massive 30% of burglaries occur when people are at home and only 5% of break and enter crimes are solved by the police, so the chance of recovering any stolen possessions is close to zero.

The best choice is to keep the burglars out in the first instance. Research tells us that the majority of burglaries are committed by ‘ammeter’ burglars who look for easy to access properties.

39% of burglars enters via the front door, 31% via the back door and 16% via the windows. It is easy to see how securing your windows and doors with security screens will be a very cost effective step to take. Not that you could ever put a price on your family's safety.

It is also important that the people who install your security devices hold a master licence and class 2E licence as this ensures they have been police checked and have their fingerprints stored on the police database.

Please take time to look through the following home security tips – most of which are cost free. As the father of a young family and with personal family experience of a break in I understand how important home safety is.

- ✓ Install locks on doors and windows and use them (1 in 10 households have no security measures in place and 1 in 4 of those who have them admit to not using them)
- ✓ Close doors and windows including the ones on upper stories even when you are home
- ✓ Install a security alarm and use it (4 in 10 people who have alarms do not use them).
- ✓ Do not leave keys near doorways (1 in 5 leave keys in obvious places)
- ✓ Install security doors and windows (2 in 3 people have security doors on all entrances). Having security doors and windows may also reduce your home or business insurance premiums
- ✓ Make all the family security conscious. Have a routine to check locks and switch on alarms etc
- ✓ Store expensive items out of sight (maybe get a safe)

- ✓ Ask someone to collect your mail if you are not at home or ask the post office to hold it – put a ‘no advertising materials’ sign on the letterbox
- ✓ Tell your neighbours if you are broken into so they can be more security conscious and report any suspicious activity
- ✓ Never leave your home address attached to your keys
- ✓ Trim back hedges as they provide cover for burglars when they are breaking in and they can also hide in them
- ✓ Install motion lights
- ✓ Fake a dog (if you do not have one) – put a large leash, dog collar or bowl on the porch
- ✓ Fake a man if you are a woman living alone
- ✓ Consider a neighbourhood watch group
- ✓ If moving in to a new house then always change the locks
- ✓ Do not leave a spare key hidden around the front door
- ✓ Lock the garage door
- ✓ Do not leave ladders lying around – if they are too big for the garage then chain them down horizontally

I hope you have found this information useful and improve your home security as a result.

Yours Sincerely

**N Metcalf**

Neil

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