



This list was compiled by those involved with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby council areas. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799.



## OUR 20 FAVOURITE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR HOMES

1. Clearly display your home's street number at the front of your property. It must be visible at night. This assists emergency vehicles as well as visitors.
2. Display warning signs around the perimeter or on your home. e.g. "Trespassers will be prosecuted", "This property is under electronic surveillance", Neighbourhood Watch window stickers/plaques, dog warnings, etc.
3. Front fences, trees and bushes should allow visibility from the street and be trimmed to reduce hiding places.
4. Natural ladders are a risk. Don't provide easy access to upper level balconies and windows, eg wheelie bins, lattice, trees, nearby fences.
5. Consider installing motion-activated security lighting and keep it well-maintained. Consider timer plugs for lights, TV, or radio to give the impression someone is home. Install the brightest lightbulb in the light outside your front door.
6. Get a strong letterbox and lock it with a strong lock, preferably keyed with a non-copy-able round keyed mailbox security lock. Clear your mailbox daily. If you are away, ask a neighbour to assist. Or put a hold on your mail at the Post Office. Know when important documents/statements are arriving in the post and report immediately if they don't arrive.
7. The power board should be housed in a secured cabinet. Consider an ETSA padlock on the meter cupboard (a special lock available from locksmiths).
8. Lock all garages, sheds and under-house access points. Lock away all tools and ladders to prevent them being used to gain access to your home. Roller, tilt & panel-lift doors can be secured with additional hasp & staple lock sets and/or padlocks. Anchor all sheds, sculptures, outside ornaments & table & chair sets.
9. Consider installing a safe for jewellery & documents. The safe should be fixed to the floor or embedded in foundations. Cash at home should be minimised (and is often not covered by insurance). Ensure insurance is up-to-date.
10. Leave a spare key with a trusted friend or neighbour, never hidden outside. Keys should not be left in view. Keys should not be left in locks when you are absent. Car keys should NOT be kept by the front door or on the kitchen counter. Keep car keys by the bed – be aware they can include a panic alarm. Consider Fingerprint, Key Pad or Bio Locks.

## OUR 20 FAVOURITE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR HOMES contd.

11. Consider an intruder alarm system. Utilise the alarm's 'Home' and 'Away' settings, especially at night when sleeping. Consider having the alarm monitored (back-to-base). Consider a system with cctv cameras that can be remotely viewed from a mobile phone. Review your system – technology is constantly changing.
12. External doors should be solid and fitted with deadlocks. Install patio bolts on sliding doors. Consider security doors.
13. Windows should be solid and frames anchored securely. All windows should have keyed locks, including skylights. Don't leave keys in locks. Alternative holes can allow a locked-while-open position for ventilation. Consider replacing glass with stronger laminated glass. Be aware of the vulnerability of leadlight windows, especially to the side of a front door. Consider shutters/grilles.
14. Consider an audio/video intercom to vet your visitors, or install a peep-hole, security door-chain or door-bar, and/or a security door. (Flyscreens are not security doors.)
15. Request a FREE 'Safety Audit' from your local Crime Prevention Officer.
16. Record description/model/serial number for all valuable property. Photograph all jewellery, alongside a ruler for scale. Keep these records off-site. Consider borrowing a FREE engraver and/or FREE UV light pen from your local Crime Prevention Officer and engraving/marking your property with your Driver's Licence Number. Check adequate levels of insurance cover.
17. Only use tradies recommended to you, or that you have researched. Supervise them all the time in your home. You are probably NOT insured for theft by tradesmen or visitors - this includes party guests and buyers at a garage sale.
18. Pre-program your phone(s) with all the emergency numbers below. Report everything. If you see anything suspicious, or witness a crime, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant, please tell the Police. Try and get a car rego – use a rock to scratch it on the ground.
19. Suggest an arrangement with neighbours for when any of you are on vacation, eg for regularly checking your home, clearing the local newspapers, putting out & retrieving garbage bins, clearing mailboxes, parking in driveways/spaces, mowing grass strips, etc. Consider placing old items on the washing line. NEVER advertise your travel plans on social media. Consider re-directing/holding your mail.
20. Consider promoting a dog on site: a dog water dish, dog lead and warning signs. Consider connecting the sensor lighting to a socket unit that can 'bark' (or 'chirrup') as a warning/deterrent.

**FOR EMERGENCIES** (Including anyone on your property)

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**TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS** (Crime Stoppers)

**1 800 333 000**

**TO REPORT NON-EMERG CRIME** (Police Assistance Line)

**131 444**

**IF YOU'RE NOT SURE** (Hornsby Police Station)

**9476 9799**