



## Frequently Asked Questions #28

# IS IT A LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A VISIBLE HOUSE NUMBER ON MY HOUSE?



**YES.** It is a legal requirement to display the correct house number (street number) on the building (house) OR fence fronting the street pursuant to Section 124 Para 8, Local Government Act 1993.

- Make sure that your house number is clearly visible from the street on a dark, wet night.
- Rather than simply one number, Neighbourhood Watch suggests all three numbers:
  1. A number displayed on the façade or fence of the property, and
  2. In addition, a number displayed on the letterbox (optional) and
  3. In addition, a number on the kerb outside your property (optional).
- If your home is situated on a corner, the number should face the street named in your address.
- Property numbers must remain legible and be repaired or replaced as required.
- Reflective numbers are optional, although highly recommended by NHW.
- Bigger is better.
- Double-check for Homeowner's Association restrictions.
- A council may order a person to display a house number on premises. Failure to comply is an offence.

For businesses, factories, or commercial premises, a property number must be located on the façade of the building facing the road. If the building is not clearly visible from the road, then some other means must be used to ensure that the property number is easily visible from the road (e.g. placing the number on a fence).

### Notes:

Sunlight may fade the numbering.

Small LEDs can assist with seeing the number at night.

Each Local Government Area has its own Policy.

Local councils allocate the house numbers according to strict rules.

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)	000
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)	1 800 333 000
TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line)	131 444
IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)	9476 9799
TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP	106
SPEAK AND LISTEN	1800 555 727

ENGLISH

You can also display warning signs on your property, eg Alarm systems, CCTV in use, Guard dog, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) window sticker/letterbox plaque.

A kerb is also known as a curb.

House numbering first started in 1512 in Paris.

### Reasons for House Numbering:

- **Legal requirements:** All streets and houses must have a clear house number sign or house name, this is enforced by local councils. If you are thinking of removing your house number and replacing it with a name, you will need to talk with your local council. The house number is also used for the maintenance of local records, eg Swimming Pool Register.
- **Emergency Services (Fire, Ambulance & Police):** House numbers are necessary to locate those in need. If the address cannot be found, that is vital time lost. Emergency services struggle with finding numbers from a street view and it is highly difficult to see at night whilst still in their vehicles.
- **Postman:** This makes our postman's job a little easier. Our mail will come right to our house and not be left at our neighbours or redirected anywhere else.
- **Deliveries:** It gives our delivery drivers a bit of help finding us whether it's a parcel, food shop or take out.
- **Family & Friends:** Whether you have just moved or having guests down at Christmas, it is just as important for them to find your house easily, especially if they arrive at night.
- **Home Services:** Nowadays we can arrange for different services to come to our homes eg to clean the home /car, deliver beauty/hair treatments, and more importantly, waste management (the bins!). Some service companies charge if they fail to locate your home.
- **Potential Buyers:** More and more of us choose to sell or recycle items online and the buyers will usually collect the items from our home address. The exchange would go so much easier if they found your home straight away.

### Kerb Numbers:

Request from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby the FAQ #29 'IS IT A LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO HAVE A HOUSE NUMBER ON THE KERB?' for further information on kerb numbering and how to paint them.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799. Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: [au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/](http://au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/).

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: [WatchOut.org.au](http://WatchOut.org.au).

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