



INDEPENDENT LOCKSMITHS & SECURITY Pty. Ltd.

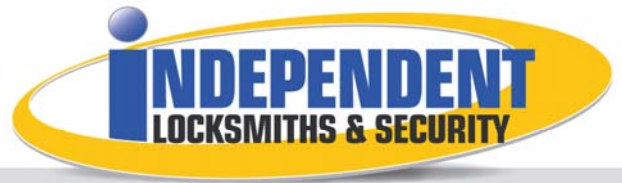
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Home Security Checklist

- 1. Are the external doors on your home secured by deadlocks or similar heavy duty locking devices?** Your external doors should be securely locked with double sided deadlocks or heavy duty locking devices of some kind. Make sure you choose locks that meet the Australian standards for strength and durability. In most cases locks are taken for granted but they are the first line of defence against an attack by an intruder. Locks will not only **deter** a prospective intruder, they will also **delay** that intruder from entering your home.
- 2. Are your windows locked with key operated window locks?** All windows should be locked with key operated window locks. Some manufacturers of windows are supplying windows with key operated locks in the plastic window catch. In most cases these locks are no stronger than a standard window catch. Window locks should be made of metal and are installed in addition to the existing window catch. Most windows can be locked in a ventilation position to allow fresh air in the house.
- 3. Is your home equipped with a monitored back to base alarm system?** Alarm systems are a great deterrent and if the system has back to base signalling and a security company with a good response time you will have added an extra layer to your security. Make sure the siren box is visible from the street and use stickers on your windows to warn intruders that your house is alarmed.
- 4. Are you aware of who has keys to your home?** If you have just moved into a home, new or old, it is a good idea to re-key all the locks. You never know if previous residents have retained a key or how many people they gave a copy too. You can get all the door locks 'keyed alike' so you only have to carry one key.



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5. **Does your home have a safe?** If you have cash, jewellery, documents or any other personal possessions then you need a safe. Make sure you buy a quality safe that has a recognised insurance rating. Speak to a reputable locksmith or quality safe manufacturer for advice as to which safe will most suit your particular requirements.

6. **Are your external doors solid core doors?** If your external doors are timber then they should be constructed of solid timber. Hollow doors are designed for internal use. If the doors are hollow replace them as soon as possible.

7. **Are the perimeter gates of your home securely locked with gate locks or bolt cutter resistant chains and padlocks?** There are some very good gate locks and pad locks available on the market today. Talk to a locksmith about the best way to secure your gates. If you are going to use a padlock and chain to secure the gates ensure the chain is high tensile and bolt cutter resistant.

8. **Is the exterior lighting of your home adequate?** Adequate lighting is an excellent deterrent. Thieves do not like to be seen. The brighter the better especially if when an area is lit it can be seen from the street or by people in surrounding buildings. Motion detectors attached to lights will help save the expense of having lights on throughout the night and also add the element of surprise for the would-be intruder when they are activated.



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9. Does your home have any form of electronic security surveillance? Closed Circuit Television or CCTV encompassing high resolution colour cameras and Digital Video Recorders or DVR's are becoming so affordable that they are no longer out of reach for the average home owner. Many of the DVR's on the market today can be viewed remotely allowing you to keep an eye on your home from anywhere in the world using the internet. Digital also means no more messing with tapes. All events are recorded to a hard drive just like a computer. The bigger the hard drive the further back you can go to replay captured images.

Finally after completing this checklist how would you rate the physical security of your home?

Poor - do something as soon as possible you are at risk.

Average - have an expert conduct an assessment to make sure you are not taking unnecessary risks.

Good – if you believe you have a good security system remember the world outside is constantly changing and there is always someone waiting for an opportunity to exploit what they see is an easy target.

Excellent – do not become complacent and think that you are not a target. Even if your security has recently been upgraded it is best to establish an ongoing review procedure to ensure you are protected.