

THE ULTIMATE HOLIDAY
SECURITY CHECKLIST

KEEPING
BURGLARS
OUT WHEN
YOU'RE
AWAY



Whether you're escaping the city over school holidays or taking some time to make upgrades around the house, there has never been a better time to improve the security of your home.

In Australia, the rate of reported burglaries escalates over holiday periods compared to the other times of the year. This is because so many of us spend time away from home, visiting friends and family or enjoying a trip away.

While these are prime times of year for burglars to act, you don't need to spend time away from home stressed about the safety of your property and belongings. We've compiled a checklist for every home owner to ensure their houses are safe and secure.



WHAT ARE INTRUDERS LOOKING FOR?

Ensuring your house is safe and secure begins with understanding what makes intruders tick. Deterring burglars from your home is the best defence against theft while you're away enjoying your holiday.

HERE'S WHAT PROFESSIONAL CRIMINALS ARE LOOKING FOR.

- ✔ **Inactivated burglar alarms** – What's the point in having an alarm system if you're not going to use it? Professional burglars will be monitoring how diligent you are in arming your alarm system so it's worth putting it in use whenever you're not home.
- ✔ **Back doors and windows which can easily be smashed or broken down** – The easier you make it to get into your house, the more likely you are to attract criminals. Make sure that any doors or windows are secure and cannot easily be kicked down by lazy burglars.
- ✔ **Mail and newspapers piling up** – An overflowing letterbox or front yard full of last week's newspapers is like a large neon sign for burglars that no one is home and they're free to break in.
- ✔ **Vehicles in the driveway** – A car in the driveway helps give the impression someone is home.
- ✔ **No lights on at night** – Professional criminals take the time to monitor your moves. Light timers can be a great way to show your home has a presence at night fooling a potential night prowler.
- ✔ **Trees and bushes covering windows** – A professional burglar's greatest skill is to become invisible. How do they do it? They know where all the great hiding places and they know which houses will keep their crime out of street view.
- ✔ **Low visibility from the street or neighbours' houses** – While many people enjoy the privacy of high fences or hedges, this can be a hugely attractive feature for burglars too. Low visibility from the street means the wrong people can pass in and out of your house without notice.
- ✔ **Your relationship with the neighbours** – Isn't it about time you made new friends with the neighbours? Neighbours who are less observant and involved create the perfect environment for a burglary to go unnoticed.



WHO SHOULD YOU BE TELLING YOU'RE GOING AWAY?

Who wouldn't be excited about a holiday? Sometimes it can be tempting to tell every man and his dog about your island getaway but beware! You don't want your travel details (and most importantly the dates you'll be away) to fall into the wrong hands.

WHO YOU SHOULD TELL:

- ✓ **Neighbours** – Your neighbours are going to be your best friends when it comes to keeping your home safe in your absence. Talk to your neighbours, let them know that you'll be away and this way they can keep an eye on your house. You could even ask them to pick up your mail or park their car in your driveway to give the illusion that your home has someone living in it.
- ✓ **Your regular deliveries and subscriptions** – Be sure to suspend any memberships or subscriptions you usually have delivered to your house. A pile of newspapers at your front door is a huge giveaway to observant intruders. These deliveries only end up in the bin when you return from your holiday anyway.

WHO YOU SHOULD NOT BE TELLING ABOUT YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS:

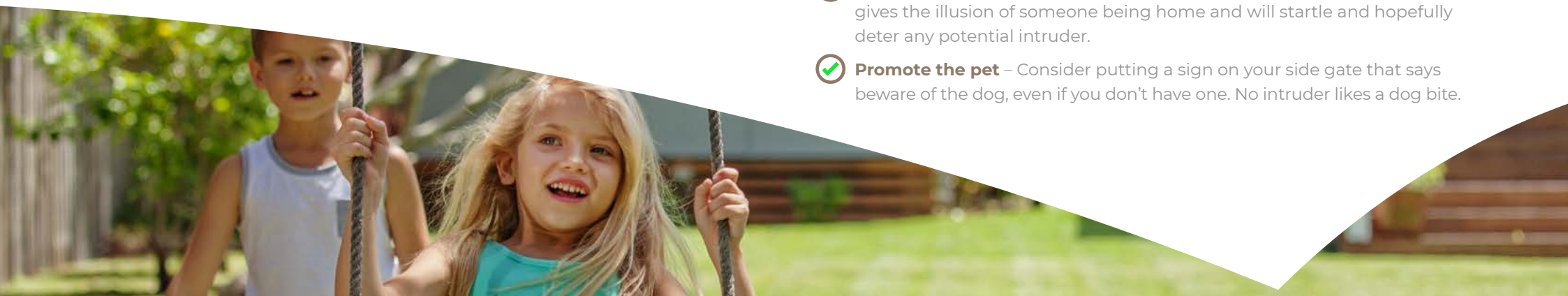
- ✓ **Social Media!** – We all love to share our holiday snaps with our nearest and dearest but it is important to remember these aren't the only people seeing your photographs. Post once you are home and let everyone know you had a great holiday.
- ✓ **Services providers with access to your home** – Builders, painters, interior designers – you name it. Avoid giving your travel dates away to people you don't know well, whether that's in person, in writing or through your answering machine message.



HOW CAN I KEEP MY HOME SECURE FROM THE OUTSIDE?

Keeping your home secure from the outside ensures that you deter burglars from the outset. There are a variety of methods to ensure your home is safe and secure.

- ✔ **Lock all outside doors and windows** – So many break-ins occur through doors and windows left open. Don't make this mistake.
- ✔ **Lock your external garage or shed with a lock** – A secure lock is the best investment you'll make. Even if the only possession you have stored in your garden shed is a shovel and gardening gloves, a sturdy lock will deter burglars from investigating further.
- ✔ **Lock away your tools and ladders and secure your outdoor bin** – Ladders and bins make great step ups for burglars to climb in through windows or other access areas.
- ✔ **Do not leave keys hidden outside the house** – While it can be frustrating to lock yourself out of the house, it's even more annoying to come home and find a burglar has let themselves in. Don't leave your spare key under pot plants or other obvious places around the house and garden. Instead ask your neighbour to keep a key safe for you in case of emergencies.
- ✔ **Advertise your security system (even if you do not have one)** – Placing signs and stickers around your home notifying potential intruders of the system in most cases will deter them completely. Be sure to use generic signs that do not list the brand or model of security system – the real professional criminals may know how to deactivate a system if they know what they're dealing with.
- ✔ **Trim trees and shrubs around any windows** – Bushes and trees make great hiding places for burglars so make sure to minimise this.
- ✔ **Place motion sensor lights around your front and back yards** – This gives the illusion of someone being home and will startle and hopefully deter any potential intruder.
- ✔ **Promote the pet** – Consider putting a sign on your side gate that says beware of the dog, even if you don't have one. No intruder likes a dog bite.



HOW CAN I KEEP MY HOME SECURE FROM THE INSIDE?

Keeping your home secure from the inside can be just as important as outside. If an intruder has managed to make it onto your property without the suspecting gaze of onlookers, you need to be sure they have no way of finding a way inside.



Install reliable security screens on all doors and windows

– This is one of the most important and simple ways to keep intruders out – both when you're on holidays and when you're at home. It is important to choose a quality product here that has been proven to resist the impact of break ins. There are so many options available to suit a range of budgets and homes. If you would like to learn more about the options and benefits of quality security screen doors, check out [Amplimesh® Security Products](https://amplimesh.com.au/security-products).



Install automatic timers on lights and TVs and divert your home phone to your mobile

– These tactics give the illusion that someone is home even when you're on holidays. There are a variety of products and apps on the market that allow you to set this up and manage it all from your smart phone.



Keep expensive items, such as large TVs and jewellery out of sight

– Be sure to hide anything that might be attractive to criminals. These people want to be in and out of your house as quickly as possible so if they can't see anything to grab and take, robbing your house may not be worth their time.



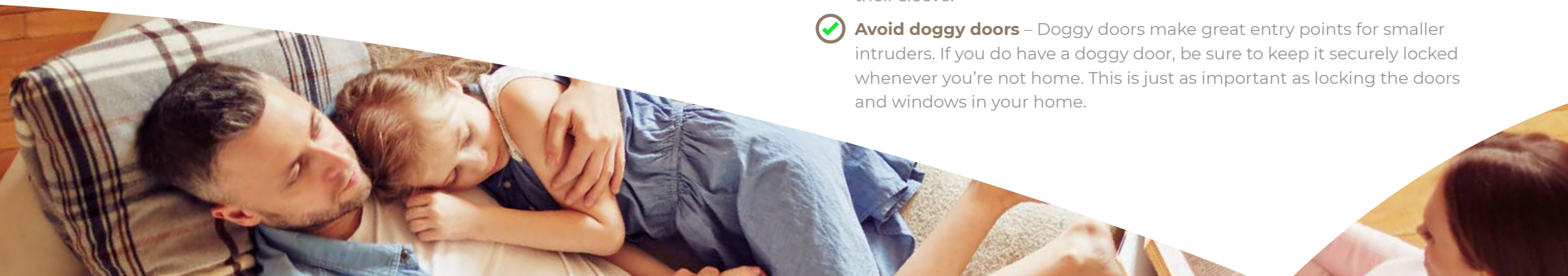
Install a safe that cannot be easily moved – Safes are a great way to hide some of your valuable belongings but be sure they cannot be removed. Built-in safes are the best because it eliminates the risk of burglars taking the whole safe to break into later.



Fit approved locks on all doors and accessible windows – This will be the first method of breaking in for intruders. Be sure that the locks are break-in proof because the professional criminals have a few tricks up their sleeve.



Avoid doggy doors – Doggy doors make great entry points for smaller intruders. If you do have a doggy door, be sure to keep it securely locked whenever you're not home. This is just as important as locking the doors and windows in your home.



DON'T LEAVE YOUR HOME SECURITY TO CHANCE

Holidays are meant for relaxing, not stressing about the intruders that could be breaking into your home. Peace of mind is the best gift you can give yourself, so be sure to secure your home these holidays.

This guide offers the ultimate checklist to follow before you go away on your holiday and will protect you and your family for years to come. Be sure to tick all the boxes because the more difficult you make it for burglars, the less inclined they are to rob your house in the first place.

If you have not installed premium security screen doors or windows, it's not too late to secure your home. Amplimesh® offers a range of security screen options to suit any home and lifestyle. Talk to your local dealer about how they can improve your home's security.

Choose your screen style



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AMPLIMESH®

INTRUDAGUARD®

specially tempered 5052 marine grade aluminium



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