

Many Australians do not take adequate security measures when leaving their homes unattended. As most home theft is opportunistic, people who leave their doors and windows unlocked, or hide their keys in obvious places, face a higher risk of burglary.

### FAST FACTS

One in four Australians has experienced a home intrusion – a burglary that occurs while someone is at home (25 per cent) (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)

One-third of Australians (33 per cent) have experienced a break-in sometime in their lives (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)

One in seven Australians (15 per cent) has no insurance cover for their home buildings and contents or for personal effects and valuables (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)

### HOLIDAY SECURITY

- Two-fifths of Australian householders (41 per cent) are apprehensive about going away on holidays, in case they are burgled (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)
- One in four (27 per cent) believes an alarm is the most effective measure to protect their home when they go away (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)
- Seven per cent do not take any security measures to protect their home when they go away on holiday (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)

### HOME SECURITY MEASURES

- One in 10 Australian households has no security measures in place, such as deadlocks, window locks, alarms, security bars or safes (11 per cent) (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security Index)
- One-third of Australians (37 per cent) admit they leave their front or back door open when they know they probably should not (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security Index)
- One-quarter (29 per cent) fails to lock deadlocks around the home when they know they should, and the same proportion (37 per cent) doesn't always lock window locks when they should (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)
- Four in ten people who have a home alarm installed said they sometimes go out without activating their home alarm (36 per cent) (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)
- One in five Australians leaves their house keys in obvious places, such as under doormats or pot plants at home entrances (19 per cent) (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security Index)
- Two-thirds of people have security doors on all entrances to their home (62 per cent) (source: 2007 AAMI Home Security data)

### 10 tips for keeping your home and contents secure:



- 1 Remember the basics** – it's no good installing locks and not using them.
- 2 Make sure** everyone in your home is equally security conscious. Have a routine that everyone follows to check locks and switch on alarms when the house is left unoccupied.
- 3 Don't assume** balcony doors or high windows are safe to leave unlocked – thieves are good at finding ways to overcome these obstacles.
- 4 Store** easy-to-carry and expensive items such as laptops, jewellery and MP3 players away and out of sight so thieves can't see them. Consider installing a safe.
- 5 Don't** leave doors or windows wide open for long periods, even if you're at home.
- 6 Don't** leave car keys or wallets beside open windows or doors.
- 7 Engage deadlocks** when you leave the house so that thieves can't carry items out through your main doors. Leave the keys inside deadlocks while you're at home, so you can get out of the house if a fire occurs.
- 8 If you can't** arrange for someone to collect your mail while you're on holiday, ask the post office to hold it until you return. Also, consider attaching a 'no advertising material' sign to your letterbox so it doesn't overflow while you're away.
- 9 Tell your neighbours** if your home is broken into – then they can remember to be extra careful and report any suspicious activity to police.
- 10 Never** have your home address attached to your house keys.