

Good security habits

at home and away



Good Security is often simply a matter of getting into a habit of doing things in a way that shows you are security conscious. The truth of the matter is that thieves will always “go for” softer targets first, so try not to be one.

AWAY FROM HOME

Don't let your common sense “go away” just because you are away from home. When you are staying in a place that is unfamiliar to you, take the time to acquaint yourself with the security protections that are in place and use them. If there are security gates in place, keep them

locked – even if you are in at the time. If there is a safe – use it for your valuables when you are not using or wearing them and don't leave them lying around where they are visible through windows. After all, if there are two places being “scoped” by potential thieves rather let yours present a less attractive prospect.

Unoccupancy

If you can't engage a house-sitter to look after your home while you are away don't advertise that your home is unoccupied by letting your mail/newspaper deliveries pile up – arrange for this to be collected or stopped. Arrange for a friend or family member to visit regularly to switch on lights or TV's to make the house look occupied. Install time switches on certain plugs to illuminate “street fronting” windows at dusk and then switch off again in the morning – remember lights that stay on all day can also signal unoccupancy. Overgrown lawn can also be a sign that no-one's home so get the lawn mowed while you are gone.

AT HOME

Take a good look at your home through a potential thief's eyes. Evaluate it in comparison to your neighbours'. How can you present your home as a security conscious environment? How can you make your home the last one to be chosen as a potential target?

Lights

A well lit façade that is visible to passers by may discourage someone intent on hiding away on your property. Install lighting in dark corners of your garden to discourage “lurking”. Some lights should switch on automatically at dusk so that if you are coming home after dark you can clearly see anything out of place as you approach.

Security Gates

Ensure that security gates (especially those visible to passers by) are locked at all times – even if you are at home. Get into the habit of not leaving the key in the lock when you are in. Compare your security gates to others in your road – we all know that there is a vast array of different types available (some better quality than others) – do yours look strong enough?

Signage

If you have a contract with a security company make sure their signage is visible to passers by – keep clear of foliage, etc. In addition, signs indicating the presence of a dog may also make your risk less attractive to thieves.

Trees & Foliage

If you have trees overhanging your boundary walls – look at them with fresh eyes – would they be an easy “ladder” into your garden or a convenient hiding place for thieves? Sometimes just trimming back a few of the branches can reduce your risk.

At Indwe Risk Services we don't want you to become a statistic so be aware and keep safe over the holiday period.

Contact your local Indwe Risk Services

Office to check that:

- your contents at home are adequately insured
- the items you are taking away with you are covered.