

Enjoy a safe summer

With house robbery and hijacking on the increase "outdoor living" could be seen as a hazardous leisure activity.

By taking a few simple security precautions, however, the risk of being taken by surprise by home invading criminals can be minimised.

"By giving some serious thought to home security, we can stay safe while enjoying our wonderful climate," said Trellidor franchise owner Laird Anderson.

The first rule is to be disciplined about using security measures already in place. Keep sliding security barriers closed and locked at all times.

"An advantage of barrier security is that you can open doors and

windows to allow fresh air and sunshine in without compromising safety," said Laird. "But remember to close them in unoccupied parts of the house, especially if watching TV in another room as you may not hear someone trying to break in."

Secondly, all doors and windows should be secured with barriers, even if they look inaccessible.

When a robber decides to try his luck at your home he has a good idea of how much time to give himself to get in. This self-imposed time limit depends on how much he has to break through to gain access. Good quality barriers, such as Trellidor's fixed and sliding designs, substantially increase the time he needs and act as a discouragement.

"Maintenance is another important factor because rusting old burglar guards are a 'push-over' for burglars," said Laird. Respected brands such as Cottage Guard burglar guards are maintenance free and corrosion resistant.

They are fully framed and bolted into the window's substrate rather than the frame, making them exceedingly difficult to remove, especially when the robber is under time pressure.

Finally, it pays to stay vigilant and know what is happening around the house at all times.

It helps if you have an alert dog to warn you of strangers at the door (or window) while you enjoy your swimming pool or garden this summer.

