



IT recently surfaced that criminals mark the exterior of your home with crayon once its been 'cased' detailing the type of crime to which it's vulnerable, the first step in highly organised criminal groups' modus operandi. They can identify weak points in your defences and will exploit them, so you should "harden the target" to make it less attractive to criminals.

How? Trellidor's countrywide network of franchisees has had many years of experience in securing homes after they have been invaded by criminals. This is how they recommend you prevent your home from being 'selected':

- The most common points of entry are the doors, often left open or poorly secured. Install good quality security barriers inside the exterior doors and keep these locked at all times
- Make sure you know where all your remote controls are. If you lose one, ask your supplier to reset the rest. Never leave them in your car as some thieves are able to 'record' your transmitter's signal and open the door. Insist on encrypted coding or code hopping transmitters.
- Secure all windows with barriers, no matter how small or high up they are. Select burglar guards that cannot be kicked out. Make sure some of your windows have retractable security barriers such as those offered by Trellidor. You don't want to be trapped in a room and

unable to get out.

- Noisy deterrents such as large dogs and burglar alarms are a good investment. Allow at least one large dog to sleep inside to surprise should criminals that gain access to your home.
- Keep your garden free of hiding places for criminals. Trim overgrown shrubbery near the house and exterior walls or fencing.
- Check that you have adequate lighting outside so that you don't have to walk from your car to the house in the dark, and it is harder for criminals to hide
- Join your neighbourhood watch or get one going. There is evidence they can cut down the incidence of crime drastically.
- Ideally, one should install 'layers' of security from exterior movement sensors to secure perimeter fencing, burglar alarms, interior movement sensors, burglar guards on all windows, sliding barriers on doors, panic buttons, a safe room and armed response. Though this is costly, you can start with barriers on doors and add to those in phases.

Trellidor North Durban and Dolphin Coast has trained Security Consultants who will do a comprehensive free security assessment of your home and advise you on the best plan to show criminals that your home will not be easy to break into

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THE ULTIMATE CRIME BARRIER*

