

Keep baddies behind bars

THIS month's Fightback column focuses on internal home protection.

A great external security system can often lead to a poor internal security system. Remember, to keep safe you as a home owner need to have as many obstacles as possible in front of an intruder.

Home invaders in general have two requirements when choosing a house to enter, namely speed and not attracting attention. Although it is impossible to secure one's home 100 per cent against an attack, it is possible to make it too difficult to attack.

Three things to always keep in mind. Intruders hate light, noise and time issues. Work them into your home security to make your home safe.

Home security needs to focus on several basic arenas which, if attended to may be the difference between you being a victim or not.

The door system

According to Trellidor 80 percent of break-ins occur through the lock area of a door. Starting at doors which are the direct inlet routes into your home, ensure you have sufficient strength locks and all doors have strength hinges. A good idea is to install a trellis door behind or in front of the solid door. This adds extra protection and costs the intruder valuable time needed to break in. A new initiative, the Lockjaw Security Strip, is gaining momentum as a preventive measure which stops forceful attempts at opening a door. By not allowing a spade or crowbar near the door lock mechanism the intruder will begin to doubt the effectiveness and speed of his break in. Of course these measures

are all worthless if continual home safety is not practiced. Make it a habit to lock and double check your doors at every chance. Another idea is to review the slam lock option available on most trellis doors. Trellidor has a slam lock system which can give you that immediate safe barrier when running into your home.

The windows

Windows are left open a lot more often than they should be. In many cases it is assumed the intruder cannot enter the home through a window. But in many cases a youngster is used to slip in and open a door to let unwanted guests in. Yet another 'layer' to peel for intruders is the installation of effective burglar bars to windows. While there are many aesthetically appealing varieties on the market, one must ensure they are effective in preventing both forceful and 'jimmying' attempts at breaking them. Take a day to check all window locks and ensure all windows are attached correctly to frames.

Alarm systems

Perhaps one of the most important features of a home security system is the installation of and maintenance of an effective alarm system.

Several basics of an alarm system include:

- Panic buttons located throughout the home and specifically as close as possible to the beds of all occupants of your home
- Door and window sensors to alert the security company and occupants of unwanted guests
- Motion sensors in all rooms and independent zoning of rooms not occupied at night.

Another important task to conduct regularly is the testing of reaction time when activating an alarm. Calling the security company beforehand is a must so as not to waste unnecessary call out time.

Tips and ideas to give you additional 'layers' to your home security:

- Burglars make use of garden tools to break into homes. A motion sensor in a well locked shed is a must.
- Automatic timers are an efficient and low cost method of creating the illusion you are at home. Besides indoor lights and outdoor lights set them up on televisions and radios to add to the illusion.
- Spend a day being the intruder. Attempt to find entry points or accessible areas of your home and note them. If you can spot them, so can an intruder.
- Investigate the strength of doors, window frames etc. An intruder doesn't care if he smashes in a door to get into your home so you must ensure he cannot. Flimsy wooden doors, commonly used for bedrooms are not good enough and should be replaced with sturdy heavy doors.
- As well as locking doors and windows protect the lock and its components.
- Make sure sliding glass doors and windows are installed correctly. A bad installation can mean an easy break in.
- Never allow the spaces between window bars to exceed 280 millimetres by 230 millimetres as this is the maximum allowed by insurance companies.



Keep bad guys behind bars. Trellis doors at every major entry point can mean the difference between becoming a victim or a survivor during an attempted home invasion.

