

# Security in complexes under the spotlight

THE recent spike in house break-ins in Jeffreys Bay has put personal security under scrutiny, even in supposedly "secure" complexes.

"The threat to our safety can just as easily come from within complexes as from 'chancers' getting in from the outside," said security expert Ferdi Pieterse.

"It's wise to take responsibility for securing one's own unit,

rather than leaving it up to the body corporate or home owners' association."

Pieterse owns the local Trellidor franchise and has vast experience in securing people's homes.

He has the following suggestions to make:

1. Do a risk assessment to establish the unit's security risk profile by completing Trellidor's on-line questionnaire at

[www.trellidor.co.za/trellidor/risk\\_assessment.asp](http://www.trellidor.co.za/trellidor/risk_assessment.asp) or Ferdi and his team can do this for you.

2. Fit barrier security to all doors and windows to discourage thieves from trying their luck. Your choice of product will depend on your unit's risk level.

3. Barriers should be fitted inside the home so thieves have to break through

doors and windows first, increasing their chances of discovery through the noise and the time this takes.

4. Each doorway is unique so security barriers should be custom made to fit.

5. If your complex has a colour theme, barriers can be colour coated to complement this, making homes look less like fortresses from the outside.

6. Customised features such as bottom tracks that lift up or are recessed into the floor ensure safe passage through doorways and improve the aesthetics.

7. Architectural features like sliding doors, curved walls, large or very small windows should all be secured.

8. If the complex has cottage pane windows, Trellidor's Cottage Guard burglar guards can be designed to fit each unit's windows, staying within the parameters set by insurance companies.

9. Choose the locking option that best suits your lifestyle.

10. Make sure barriers are guaranteed against corrosion in coastal areas.

