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Christmas Security Tips

Christmas will soon be upon us, so now is the time to start preparing your property so that it is not burglar friendly.

- Check all windows and doors have locks which are working properly. When you leave the house make sure that they are all locked. Burglars look for an easy entry point. If the lock is a little stiff then graphite where you put the key in will help to loosen it up. Latching parts will require a wet lubricant – preferably Inox.
- If you have sliding doors or windows there is a large selection of locks available.
- If you have deadlocks on your doors, then make sure that they are key locked from the inside. This makes sure that the latch cannot be opened except by a key.
- Don't forget to check the garage, make sure all locks are working and locked. For Rolla Doors you can install a safety lock like the Xtra-lock, which helps prevent thieves from ramming the door to open.
- If you are home and are having a BBQ out the back, then do not leave the front of the house open or unlocked without supervision. Someone could sneak in the front while you are out the back!
- Don't leave your keys or valuables in sight from outside through the windows, this is just too tempting to thieves smash the window and grab the items.
- If you are going away, check that alarms/CCTV/Sensor lights are working correctly if you have them installed.
- Don't leave ladders, tools or garden tools that could be used to break in lying around the house. Secure them away from sight and mind.
- Take note of serial numbers or have items engraved so that you can identify them if they are stolen. Having photo evidence of valuables will also assist you when claiming insurance or identifying products if they are found.
- If you are away for a length of time invest in a timer to put a light, radio and TV on to give the illusion that someone is home.
- Turn down the volume on your telephone so that someone outside cannot hear your phone ringing away.
- If your garbage is not collected straight away, don't advertise that you have expensive items in your house by leaving the boxes in the bin.
- Ask a neighbour, friend or family to regularly check on your property, take out and put in the garbage bin, collect mail and if possible leave their vehicle parked in the driveway for a while so that the place does not look deserted.
- Do not leave a message on your answering machine saying that you are away.

- Do not advertise on facebook that you are away and for how long.
- Don't leave a spare key hiding under a rock, flower pot or on ledges, this is the first place a thief would look.
- Cancel any regular deliveries or have someone collect them.
- Have your gardens maintained so that it doesn't look like you are away.
- Don't keep valuables or gifts in sight in the vehicle.
- Many would be thieves will come along and turn the power and/or the water off to the house and then come back a couple of days later. If they haven't been turned on again then they will know that nobody is home and it is an easy target.
- Keep a watch out for your neighbour.

Retailers:

- Over the holiday period you will probably be working extended hours. Most burglaries occur when opening up or closing up so be aware of where you leave your keys, wallet, phone etc while you are busy opening or closing
- Don't keep too much cash on hand or have a safe to put extra cash and valuables in.
- If keys go missing – take action straight away. Get a locksmith to change the locks.
- Take care if leaving late at night, have your vehicle close by in a well lit area and if possible have a camera at the door so you can see if someone is waiting there for you.
- If you cannot keep all of your products in your sight, then installing a CCTV system would be your "extra eyes" in the shop when you are busy.