



LOCKSMITHS & SECURITY
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MASTER LOCKSMITHS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALASIA

Home Security Questionnaire

S.A.S Locksmiths has prepared this document to be used as an aid in conducting a review of the security of your home. The questions are intended to get you thinking about different aspects of your home security, as well as your day to day use of these features. The answers you would give to the questions should help you establish which areas of your home are potential weak spots or risks to burglary and property theft/damage.

Should you wish to have your property professionally assessed by one of our police licensed security consultants, please do not hesitate to contact our staff on 08) 9227 7727 or by email to customerservice@saslocksmiths.com.

General property security:

Is your home fitted with a good quality alarm system?

An alarm system is not only a great deterrent, it also limits the amount of time a burglar can stay within your property if they do choose to ignore the risk. Alarm systems can be easily configured to contact security companies who can attend site in the event of an activation.

Does the alarm cover all entry points and areas of the home?

Having an alarm is one thing, having an alarm that properly covers all areas of your home is another. Always be sure to consult an alarm professional to make sure all entry points and other potential risk areas are covered with your system. Also consider a sensor that covers entry via the roof space.

Do you have CCTV cameras installed?

Most burglars don't want to see themselves on TV. Having cameras, even inoperable ones, can be enough to deter someone from going onto your property. Good quality images from a CCTV system can be all it takes to identify a burglar.

Outdoor security and property surroundings:

Are all entry points properly lit?

Burglars don't like to be seen while they work. By ensuring all entry points are adequately lit, you can reduce the risk of having a burglar hiding from the street and spending time trying to break in to your home.



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Are entry points visible from the road?

Again, you are simply trying to make it less friendly for a would-be burglar. On-looking neighbours can be great preventatives. Make sure trees, shrubs and bushes are pruned back so they don't offer cover from the street.

Is the property free from rubbish or evidence of valuables from inside the home?

Rubbish left outside the home can serve as a menu for burglars. By placing the carton from your new television out the front, you are essentially advertising the new TV to burglars. It also pays to be conscious of what receipts and rubbish go into your bin, as well as how long the bin stays outside before pickup.

Is the meter box fitted with a key lock?

Energy suppliers around Australia may need access to your meter box from time to time, but this doesn't mean you can't secure it. Viewing windows and master keyed locks are readily available to lock up the meter box so people can't turn off power to your home.

Is the mailbox fitted with a key lock?

Mail theft is something a lot of people don't consider, but in the modern technology age, it is very important to keep your personal information safe. A simple key lock on the mailbox door/flap can be a useful preventative.

Is your property enclosed by fences or gates?

Gates and fences around the home mean that a burglar is required to climb over or force open one additional barrier before they can get into your home. The harder it is, the less likely it will happen. You should always ensure where possible that gates are secured with quality padlock and latches.

Are all garages and sheds securely locked?

Padlocks or deadlocks should be installed on every garden shed and all outdoor equipment should be secured inside a shed, away from sight. There are dozens of types of garden sheds and dozens of types of locks to suit.

Are vehicles parked in the most secure are possible?

Vehicles left out on the road, or away from light can be targeted. Park your vehicles as close to the home as possible or make sure they are parked in well-lit areas.

External doors:

Are all external timber doors of a solid construction?

A good strong door is the basis for a secure entry point. If the door is weak, then no lock can properly secure it as the door will break around the lock. Always ensure external doors are of a solid construction.

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Are all entry points covered by an alarm sensor?

Whether you incorporate reed switches to each door that activate when opened, or just ensure sensors can detect movement at the door, always make sure the entry point is covered as it is usually the first moment when someone enters your home and the sooner the alarm activates the better.

Are all external doors fitted with quality deadlocks, including internal key lock function?

Not all deadlocks are the same. There is a reason why some locks cost more than other. It can be a difference in function, materials or design that makes a better deadlock better. Be sure to ask for the right advice on locks for you home in unsure.

Are all external doors fitted with quality security screens or roller shutters?

Security screens are a great preventative for burglars as they not only require large amounts of force to bypass, but they also look intimidating. Sometimes the mere sight of security screens or roller shutter is enough to deter a burglar.

Are your entry doors fitted with door viewers?

A door viewer is a simple addition that eliminates the need to open your door without identifying the visitor. With the nature of some of the types of crimes we hear about these days, you don't want to be opening your door without knowing who is on the other side.

Are there glass panels beside the doors that are susceptible to breaking?

If there are glass panels next to the door, a burglar could simply break the glass and reach through to unlock the door. Increased security can be achieved by way of laminating the glass, or by a key lockable deadlock on the door so they can't open it from the inside either.

Windows:

Are all external windows fitted with quality key locks?

Most windows manufactured in or after the late 1990s were fitted with key lockable latches from the factory, however if you do not have them, you should consider installing them to increase the strength of the window locking system. Keyed window locks also prevent burglars that come through your roof from opening windows to take larger items out of your home.

Are all external windows fitted with quality security screens?

Security screens are the best way to achieve a balance of security and air flow. You can happily have windows open while knowing they are not easily susceptible to forced entry.

Are the windows fitted with alarm sensors or glass breakage sensors?

Like with external doors, all windows should be covered by either an alarm sensor or glass break sensor that will activate the alarm as soon as entry is gained.



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Security while you are away:

Do you have someone collecting mail while you are away?

A build-up of mail is a good indicator that nobody is home. You should always have someone collect your mail while you are away to eliminate that visible indicator.

Do you have someone attending to your yard while you are away?

Like mail, an overgrown or untidy yard can be a clear sign that no one is home. You should make sure someone will maintain the yard and if necessary, bring in and put out rubbish bins.

Do you check that all doors and windows locked properly?

Always do a full final check that you have properly locked all windows and doors before you leave the home. Make sure that any additional security measures are activated too.

Do you have lights operating on a timer?

By simply switching lights on and off with a timer, you can give the effect of an occupied house while you are not home. An easy and affordable way to help deter a burglar.

Are all of your valuables secured in a good quality safe?

A safe is the best place to store the most valuable possessions in your home. Make sure you understand that not all safes are the same and you should obtain professional advice to understand the options when choosing a safe.

Do you have someone monitoring your property?

It can be as simple as asking the neighbours to keep an eye out while you are away, but you should always have someone checking on your property from time to time.

Other personal security and safety measures:

Have you backed up all personal electronic data?

In the event of a burglary, or even due to damage from fire or flood, you could lose priceless memories and information that you keep stored on a hard drive or computer. You should consider keeping important data backed up at a different location, just to be safe.

Have you got adequate home and contents insurance?

There are many instances of people experiencing a loss due to theft or other reasons, only to find out that they were not adequately insured. Do your homework and make sure you won't be disappointed if you find yourself in a situation where you need to make a claim.



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Do know how to correctly operate locks and security systems?

So maybe you have great locks and security systems on your home, but do you know how to use them properly. It is very common to find people that didn't realise that their front door lock was able to deadlock, or that they have panic alarm functions in their security system. Proper use of security devices can help prevent loss or damage to you home.

Disclaimer: *S.A.S Locksmiths has provided this document to be used as an aid in making your own decisions about the effectiveness of security devices and installations in your home. By no means does it indicate that you are impervious to loss or damage to person or property by achieving all or some of the items listed in this document. By downloading and/or using this document you will be deemed to have understood and accepted that S.A.S Locksmiths cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage occurred as a result of any of the information contained within this document.*