

Building a new home?



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

Ask your builder about

Protecting your home with built-in security



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A guide for property owners and their builders



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Building a home that protects you and outsmarts burglars

So, you're going to build a new home. That's super exciting! It can also be pretty stressful.

There are so many things to think about when planning and designing your home, that sometimes some important details can be overlooked – like making sure you have fitted out your new home to be as secure as possible well into the future and removing opportunities for burglars to break in.

Most home burglaries are opportunistic. The potential crook is looking for an easy, low-risk way to get hold of something that's highly valuable and they can quickly sell for cash.

In other words – if they see a chance, they'll take a chance.

If a property looks too difficult to break in to or the thief thinks they might be seen, they're more likely to move on.



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Check out what actions you can take by doing our free online home security self-assessment,

How safe is my place

at www.howsafeismyplace.com.au and get more handy tips and info at www.nhw.com.au/crime_prevention

Making your home secure

There are simple things we can all do to prevent being the victim of crime. It's called "target hardening", which, in layman's terms, is strengthening your property to protect it from intruders. By planning ahead and taking some simple actions in and around your home, you can substantially reduce the risk of intruders breaking into your home and stealing your valuables.

Some of these initiatives can be retrofitted to an existing home – such as installing better quality locks on your doors and windows, investing in a more secure letterbox or fitting motion sensor lights over your front and back doors. And simple things like keeping trees, shrubs and fences low, so that neighbours can easily see if there's a potential intruder in your front yard, don't cost much.

Before you build

If you're planning to build your own home, there are some tactics and upgrades that you can embed in the build that will reinforce and secure your home long into the future.

Even if you're undertaking a major reno of your existing home, you may be able to use our *Building a new home security checklist* to incorporate some additional security measures.

With any building work, be sure to consult your local council's building regulations. If you live in a residential estate or apartment complex, please also check design standards or guidelines for your property.

Your free checklist

Scan the QR code below to access a free checklist of things that you may want to consider and, importantly, discuss with your building contractor before you sign off at the start of the build.

You may decide not to do all of them. Just pick and choose what makes the most sense to you, to your builder, and fits your budget.

Download the checklist and our companion guide *Protecting your building site until handover* at www.nhw.com.au/newhome



“If they see a chance, they'll take a chance”

Join your local Neighbourhood Watch group today

Visit www.nhw.com.au



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3 key questions to ask your potential builder

1. What security and surveillance systems will you be using to protect the site during construction and lock-up? Will you be using cameras, alarms, lighting, patrols?
2. What measures do you have in place to protect high-value appliances and whitegoods before handover?
3. How will you correctly remove, recycle, and dispose of building rubbish? What policies and procedures do you have in place?

And when you meet with your builder, be sure to take along a copy of our free **Building a new home security checklist** to discuss home security options. You can download it at www.nhw.com.au/newhome



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Your free checklist



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