



Garage Security

Secure your garage. It is not just about protecting your car from being stolen.

The Facts

- 1. Garages are a favourite target for thieves because they contain tools and equipment that are often easy to sell.*
- 2. Garages are not usually occupied at night so they make an attractive target.*
- 3. Once in the garage it may be easy to gain access to the inside of the house unseen.*
- 4. The items you store in your garage may be useful tools for a thief to break into your house.*

The garage door

Make sure your garage door is of solid construction without any damaged panels or corners that could allow someone to force their way in.

Ideally the garage door should be remotely operated. This means that you do not have to leave your vehicle to open and close the door. This is particularly important at night.

There should also be a light that comes on when the door opens. This will allow you to ensure no-one is hiding in the garage before you park your car.

When installing a new garage door make sure that you reset the factory settings on the system so that the settings are unique to your door. Instructions on how to do this usually come with the equipment.

If your car is frequently parked on the street or driveway don't make it easy for thieves to access the remote for your garage door by leaving it in plain sight inside the car. Place it out of sight or take it with you when you leave the vehicle.

Make sure that the remote control system on the door has a manual override in the case of a power failure. In an emergency you may need to evacuate your home and will need to be able to open the door without power.

Ensure your garage is locked even when you are at home.

Don't leave your garage door open for the cat or dog when you are out or at night. If your pet needs access to the garage install a pet door in the bottom of the garage door.

Other doors and windows

Make sure that any external doors other than the main door and any windows in your garage are of solid construction and securely lockable.

Make sure the door between the garage and the house is also solid, in good repair and lockable. If someone breaks into the garage an unlocked connecting door is an invitation for them to enter the house.

If this door is part of the cross ventilation path through your home consider installing a security screen on the opening to allow the main connecting door to remain open while still securing your home.

When you are at home

Apply common sense in your day to day use of your garage. Keep the garage door closed and locked even when you are at home as it is surprising how quickly and quietly

a person can enter your garage and help themselves to your possessions without you knowing.

If you are a person that is often guilty of leaving the garage door open at night or when you are out consider installing a monitor that closes the door after a pre-determined amount of time.

Away on holidays

Before going on vacation, switch off the power to the overhead door opener as well as locking the manual override for the door.

In some cases a power failure may cause the door to open and you do not want your home to become vulnerable while you are away.

Maybe also ask a neighbour to keep an eye on things for you.

Test all door and window locks periodically to ensure they remain in good repair and are securely fastened.

Securing your carport

Securing your carport is obviously more difficult than securing a garage, however there are a number of things you can consider to enhance your security including:

- Lock your car at all times when parked in the carport.
- Don't store garden equipment, tools or other valuables in plain view in your carport. Move them out of sight or store them in a lockable trunk or cupboard.
- Install a sensor light near the carport, no thief likes to stand in a pool of light while attempting to steal your possessions.
- Consider installing sensor alarms on your driveway and around your carport. In many cases the fear of detection will scare a potential thief away.

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How secure is your home?

Complete a **Home Security Inspection** of your home and find out!

Download more **free Information Sheets**.

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