



Security Screens

**Security screens
provide peace of mind.**

The Facts

1. The more work a burglar has to do to break into your home the less likely you are of becoming a victim.

2. Most burglars enter a residence through an unprotected or unlocked door or window.

3. Barricading yourself in your home with no means of quick escape can greatly affect your chances of surviving in an emergency.

4. Security screens are available that protect you but are easily opened from the inside.

For most people, but particularly the elderly and those people with a disability, home security is of the utmost concern.

Many elderly people feel vulnerable to crimes like robbery and assault and the installation of security measures to doors and windows can make your home physically more secure as well as creating an environment that feels safer.

Ideally security screens should be fitted to all opening windows and external doors throughout your home. If this is not desirable or achievable you should consider screening all external doors and perhaps only those windows that allow the breeze through in summer. These windows may then be safely be left open while you are at home and at night.

Compliance of design

Any security doors or window screens you install should meet the current Australian Standard or they may not be strong enough to restrict intruders.

The standard applies to the door as a whole, and includes the hinges, grilles, corner joints, screws, locks and rivets.

Many manufacturers label their doors and windows as compliant. Make sure you check and get a written guarantee if there is no label.

Security screens should comply with Australian Standards.

The parts of the screen and installation

Purchasing a security screen is the first step, however, the installation can also affect the level of security provided.

Installing a security screen in a weak frame or leaving enough space between the screen and the frame for leverage greatly reduces the effectiveness of the screen. The space between any door and the frame should be kept to between 4-6mm.

Door locks

The locking mechanism on a security door is a crucial part of the effectiveness of the screen.

The locks should comply with the current Australian Standards.

Hinges

The door should have at least three hinges with fixed hinge pins that cannot be removed.

If the hinges are not recessed into the door there should be an infill between the door and the frame to reduce the likelihood of a jimmy being inserted.

The frame

The frame should be reinforced at the corners for extra strength. Welded corner joints are generally the strongest way to achieve this.

Grille connection

The frame should have a deep enough channel and the cords of the grille long enough to ensure a definite and strong connection between the cords and the frame.

Steel screens

Steel screens are generally regarded as the most effective form of security.

A steel screen can be filled with standard bars or there are a range of decorative screens also available. The screens come in a range of styles from colonial through to more modern looks.

Stainless steel mesh

Stainless steel mesh screens are available with either steel or aluminium frames and infilled with a woven mesh.

These screens offer security without spoiling the view with bars or grilles.

Evacuation and access for emergency services

When installing door and window security to your home there is one major consideration you should take into account.

People who barricade themselves in their home to prevent intruders gaining access can also hinder access by emergency services in the case of a fire or other emergency.

It is essential that if security screens are installed to all windows and doors there is a way to escape quickly in the case of fire before smoke or fire can overcome you.

Screens that allow easy escape are available. These screens still provide the security required but are designed in such a way to allow them to be easily opened from the inside in the case of fire.

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How secure is your home?

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