



Yard Surveillance

Taking simple measures can improve your security.

The Facts

1. Securing your yard not only deters intruders but also allows you to become aware when someone has entered your yard, welcome or unwelcome.

2. Protecting yourself in your own home starts with not putting yourself in risky situations in the first place.

3. The biggest deterrent to intruders is to be seen and potentially caught while trying to break into your home.

Casual surveillance for inside your home.

Having a view through your yard to the street from living areas allows you to see activities going on in your neighbourhood without potentially putting yourself in harm's way by leaving the house.

We all like our living areas to be private and for us not to be on show to the world when at home. Many homes are designed with this in mind with the living spaces located at the rear and garages or carports located in front of the house to provide easy access while creating a buffer between public and private areas.

However, if you are looking to buy or build a new home take into account the need to easily view your surroundings from inside your home. There are many ways to address privacy issues and still maintain a view of your neighbourhood.

Lines of sight

If you need to leave your garage and cross your yard to enter your home ensure that you have a clear line of sight from the garage/carport to the entry so that an intruder is not able to conceal themselves nearby without your knowledge.

Likewise ensure that there is a clear line of sight from the front boundary to the entry. This will become even more important when you no longer drive and rely more on public transport and assistance from family and friends.

Locate garden structures so they do not obstruct lines of sight.

Instead of alighting from your vehicle in the safety of your yard you will be more likely to be entering the yard on foot from the street.

Garden structures should be located so that they do not create hiding spots and plants trimmed and maintained to not obstruct your view.

Front door security

Your front door is one of your main lines of defence between yourself and unwanted visitors. You should have the capacity to see and possibly speak to visitors without having to open the door and remove this level of protection.

Security screen

A security screen to your front door allows you to open the main door and speak to anyone outside without putting yourself at risk.

The screen should be strong and securely fitted with a good locking system and a tamper proof lock plate.

A security screen also allows you to leave the main door open when you are home to allow the breeze through in summer.

Viewing panel

If you are unable to install a security screen to your front door a glass panel in the door itself or next to the door will allow you to see visitors before opening the door.

The panel should be wide enough to allow a clear view of the area outside the door. A panel that is too narrow may allow a person to conceal themselves outside the door without your knowledge.

The viewing panel should be low enough to suit a range of users. For example a person in a wheelchair will require the lowest edge of the panel to be no higher than 850mm above the ground.

The upper edge of the panel should be higher than 1600mm minimum.

The glass should be safety glass and located at least 200mm away from the door lock to ensure that an intruder cannot smash the glass and reach through to unlock the door.

Peep hole

A peep hole can also give you the ability to view visitors without opening the door.

Like a viewing panel the peep hole should be at a height to suit your own circumstances. If you rely on the use of a wheelchair installing the peep hole at a standard eye height will make it useless and eliminate any security benefit.

Conventional peep holes have a very limited viewing range allowing intruders to potentially position themselves outside the line of sight.

There are a range of different scopes and cameras on the market that greatly expand the viewing range of a peep hole.

Whatever means of door security you choose they are only as secure as your actions allow them to be. Lock up even when at home and make sure you stop and identify visitors before you throw open the door.

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How secure is your home?

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

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