

# 30 Tips for a Safe and Secure Summer

The Australian Security Industry Association Limited (ASIAL) is highlighting the need for households and businesses to remain vigilant over the holiday season with the release of 30 practical safety and security tips.

The 2022 Australian Bureau of Statistics show a 5% increase in robbery, an 11% increase in motor vehicle theft and an 8% increase in other theft. So, with many Australians planning travel and holidays over the coming weeks, now is not the time to go easy with your security, Christmas is a busy time for criminals.

The Christmas and Boxing Day period sees our homes stocked up with gifts for loved ones under the tree and items such as smartphones, laptops and power tools purchased in the sales. The lure of these presents and electrical items is often too good to miss for burglars.

“As many Australians look to relax and celebrate with family and friends over the festive holiday period, now is not the time to drop your guard when it comes to securing your home and business” says Bryan de Caires ASIAL CEO. “Whilst you may be on holiday, criminals won’t be. At this time of year when houses are more likely to be filled with expensive gifts, we are urging people to remember to be extra vigilant and keep valuables safe and secure.”

An unsecured window or door, uncollected bins and mail or valuables left in clear view can tempt a would-be robber. By implementing a few simple measures, you can reduce the likelihood of being targeted and having to deal with the trauma of your home or business being broken into.

## 30 Tips for a Safe and Secure Summer

### Tip 1: Outdoor Christmas Lights

- If you’re running power to external Christmas lights at your home or office, don’t run extension leads through a window. Instead, use an external power source.
- A small opening in a window is all a burglar needs to enter your home.

### Tip 2: Invest in Security Cameras

- Install visible security cameras around your property to deter potential intruders.
- Ensure cameras cover entry points and vulnerable areas.

### Tip 3: Shine a light

- Ensure outdoor areas are well-lit, especially around entrances and pathways.
- Consider motion-activated lights for added security.

#### **Tip 4: Maintain Your Garden**

- Trim bushes and trees near windows to eliminate hiding spots and keep your property visible from the street.

#### **Tip 5: Keep Valuables in a Safe Place**

- Store valuable items, such as jewellery and electronics, in a secure place or safe out of sight.
- Consider engraving valuable items with your identification.

#### **Tip 6: Be Careful on Social Media**

- Change your security settings to private.
- Don't list your street address on your profile.
- Don't advertise that you're going away.
- Consider sharing your holiday photos when you return home.
- If you post, be mindful of the images you share.
- Disable location of services.

#### **Tip 7: Neighbourhood Watch**

- Inform trusted neighbours about your travel plans, so they can keep an eye on your property and put out and bring in your bins and any mail or packages.
- Exchange contact information for emergencies and give them a spare set of keys.

#### **Tip 8: Update Home Security Systems**

- If you have a home alarm system, ensure it is in working order.
- If you don't have one, consider installing one with a licensed security professional.
- Update passwords for security systems and Wi-Fi networks.

#### **Tip 9: Check Smoke Detectors**

- Check and replace flat batteries (avoid Lithium) in smoke detectors.
- Consider adding additional smoke detectors in bedrooms where devices such as mobile phones and tablets are charging overnight.
- Ensure fire extinguishers are operational and accessible.

#### **Tip 10: Christmas Tree Stability**

- Ensure that your Christmas tree is securely anchored to prevent it from tipping over, which could cause injury or damage.
- This is especially important if you have small children or pets.

#### **Tip 11: Document Your Belongings**

- Keep a detailed inventory of valuable items, including serial numbers and photographs.
- Store this information in a secure location.

### **Tip 12: Sun Protection 101**

- Australia has a high level of ultraviolet (UV) radiation, so it's crucial to protect yourself from the sun.
- Use sunscreen with a high SPF, wear a hat, sunglasses, and long-sleeved clothing.

### **Tip 13: Maintain Hydration**

- Stay hydrated, especially if you're in a hot and dry region.
- Carry a reusable water bottle and drink plenty of fluids, especially if you're engaging in outdoor activities.

### **Tip 14: Beach Safety**

- If heading to the beach, be mindful of surf conditions and always swim between the flags at patrolled beaches.
- Watch out for marine creatures like jellyfish, bluebottles and sea urchins and follow local safety guidelines.

### **Tip 15: Car and Road Safety**

- If you're planning a road trip, ensure your vehicle is in good working condition.
- Be aware of long distances between towns for refuelling and take breaks to avoid fatigue.
- Check road conditions and be prepared for variable weather conditions.

### **Tip 16: Bushfire Awareness**

- Summer in Australia can bring bushfires. Stay informed about fire danger ratings and any fire bans in the area you're visiting.
- Follow local advice and have an evacuation plan if necessary.

### **Tip 17: Restrict Home Access**

- Make access as difficult as possible. Remove items from outside and around your home that could be used as makeshift ladders such as wheelie bins.

### **Tip 18: House Keys Best Practise**

- Don't leave spare keys hidden outside. Instead, leave spare keys with a trusted person or install a keyless entry system.

### **Tip 19: Beware Sharp or Fragile Ornaments**

- Be cautious with the choice and placement of ornaments, especially if you have children or pets.
- Sharp or fragile decorations can cause injuries if they break or are mishandled.

### **Tip 20: Dispose of Packaging Carefully**

- Whether you've bought a new flat-screen TV or computer, think about how you dispose of the packaging as it can signal to would-be thieves that there are goods worth stealing.

### **Tip 21: Choking Hazards**

- Keep small toys, decorations and ornaments out of reach of small children to prevent choking hazards.
- Pay attention to small pieces that could be detached from decorations.

### **Tip 22: Eliminate Electrical Issues**

- Overloading electrical outlets with too many lights or decorations can lead to electrical fires.
- Use extension cords and outlets appropriately and avoid daisy-chaining multiple extension cords together.

### **Tip 23: Home Alone?**

- Don't tell a taxi driver who may have collected you from home that the home is empty, where you are going, or for how long you will be away.

### **Tip 24: Swimming Pool Savvy**

- Swimming pools are the leading location for drowning deaths among young children in Australia, accounting for 52% of all drowning deaths.
- Ensure all regulations are strictly adhered to regarding safe pool fencing, gates, CPR signs and rescue floatation devices.

### **Tip 25: Emergency Response Plan**

- Have a clear emergency response plan in place for both home and business.
- Ensure all family members or employees are familiar with the plan.
- Implementing these additional security measures can help enhance the safety of your home and business during the holidays and beyond.

### **Tip 26: Candle Safety**

- Many people use candles for decoration during the holidays. However, open flames can pose a significant fire hazard.
- Keep candles away from flammable materials, and never leave them unattended.

### **Tip 27: Secure Windows and Doors**

- Check that all windows and doors are securely locked before leaving your home.
- Consider installing deadbolts for extra security.

### **Tip 28: Secure the Garage**

- Ensure your garage is locked, especially if it has direct access to your home or business.
- Consider using a security system for the garage and keep your car keys locked away.

### **Tip 29: Data Security Savvy**

- Secure digital assets and sensitive information with strong passwords and encryption.
- Regularly update and back up important data.

### Tip 30: Secure Business Premises

- Ensure your security partner is aware of the days that your staff are away from the premises.
- If any staff have after-hours access and permission, share their details in advance.

To find a licensed security provider visit the ASIAL Membership Directory [here](#).

### Ends

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact [communications@asial.com.au](mailto:communications@asial.com.au) or telephone 1300 127 425.

**About ASIAL:** As the peak body for security professionals in Australia, ASIAL is committed to supporting members, promoting standards, and safeguarding public interests. (<https://www.asial.com.au>).