

The 12 *Security Tips* of Christmas

The Australian Security Industry Association Limited (ASIAL) is reminding Australians to be vigilant over the fast-approaching Christmas holiday period and has some helpful tips for securing your home.

As borders open and many of us finally get excited about travelling again, it's easy to overlook some of the simple ways you can protect your homes while you are away.

Whilst we live in a lucky country, the fact remains that more than 170,000 Australian households were victim to a break-in during 2021 according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Christmas holiday period is not a time to let your guard down. Whilst you may be relaxing and taking it easy over the holiday season, burglars won't be. Many burglaries are opportunistic, an open window or door, no visible sign that someone is home or valuables left in clear view can be all that it takes to become a victim.

The good news is that with a few practical measures you can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim and having to deal with the trauma of your home being broken into.

To assist homeowners ASIAL has provided 12 practical security tips for Christmas.

12 Security Tips for Christmas

1. **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 services.
2. **If you are going away or closing your business for a few days** – ask a trusted neighbour or business owner to keep an eye on your premises and report suspicious behaviour to the police; contact your alarm monitoring centre.
3. **Don't look like you're away** – If it's obvious nobody is home, this can encourage opportunistic thieves to strike. Put your mail on hold or have it collected; for homeowners ask a neighbour to park in your driveway; for business, operators advise suppliers not to deliver during your shutdown period.
4. **Make access as difficult as possible** – remove items from outside and around the premises that may be used as makeshift ladders; ensure all building windows, doors and other access points are secure; keep valuables out of sight; install motion-sensor lights.
5. **Maintain your alarm system** – if you have an alarm, make sure it is maintained in good working order by a licenced security professional, if you don't have one, think about getting one.

6. **Review your security measures** – walk around your home thinking like a would-be thief, looking for points of easy access and signs that there are items lying around the home that are worth stealing or get a licensed security professional to review your security measures and provide you with some.
7. **Don't leave spare keys outside** – leave keys with a trusted person or invest in a keyless entry locking system.
8. **Keep valuables out of sight and out of reach.**
9. **Dispose of Packaging carefully** – whether you've bought a 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.
10. **Re-direct your mail so that your mailbox is not overflowing** or get a neighbour to check for junk mail.
11. **Lock your doors and windows** – it may sound obvious, but you'd be surprised how many people fail to lock their doors and windows before going out.
12. **Christmas lights** - don't run external lights through a window – if you're running power to external Christmas lights of your home, make sure you don't run the power cables through a window or door for power. A small opening in a window or door is all a burglar needs to enter your home.

ASIAL CEO Bryan de Caires says “with a few simple measures, you can make your home less attractive to burglars and ensure you can have peace of mind over the holiday period. And after the challenges of the past year, Australians deserve a break.”

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

Ends

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact 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>).