

**MAKE YOUR HOME**

*fire safe  
and secure*



# MAKE YOUR HOME *fire safe and secure*

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority and the Police Service of Western Australia are jointly committed to working towards a safer community. To achieve this both agencies have combined their knowledge about Home Fire Safety and Home Security.

Being fire safe while still making sure your home is secure may sometimes seem to be contradictory. This brochure should help you find a balanced approach to planning for both home safety issues.

When installing security products always select a licensed installer and check for identification. For the installation of hardwired smoke alarms, use a licensed electrician.

Note: Australian Standard (AS) numbers are provided below as guideline only.

**Q. How do I ensure windows are secure while still allowing my family to exit if necessary?**

**For home security choose:**

- approved window locks
- security window screens (AS4604)
- safety films applied to the glass or laminated glass
- external roller shutters

**For fire safety make sure you have:**

- an approved, and working, smoke alarm (AS3786)—either hardwired or battery-operated
- windows that can be locked from the inside so that, when you are home, a single key can be left in the lock for quick exit if you need to evacuate
- an escape plan that everyone in the family understands and has practiced
- quick release mechanisms on security screens



**Q. What should I do about security systems?**

**For home security choose:**

- an alarm system that conforms to AS2201 and ensure it is installed by a licensed installer

**For fire safety install:**

- a hardwired smoke alarm linked to your security system (monitored or unmonitored)
- a domestic (indoor) sprinkler system

**Q. How can I improve the general safety around my home?**

**For home security:**

- don't leave an outside light on only when you go out—use an inside light instead
- consider electronic timers to activate and deactivate lights, television or radios so your house looks occupied
- keep ladders and tools locked away and ask your neighbours to do the same
- don't give housebreakers hiding places—keep shrubs trimmed so these don't provide cover and install exterior lighting
- have a lock on your letterbox
- engrave your property and keys with a family driver's license number (never put your name or address on keys)



**For fire safety:**

- install an approved Safety Switch (residual current device) so that a faulty electrical appliance has its power cut off rapidly
- check that all your electrical appliances and equipment are installed, used and maintained according to the manufacturers' standards
- test your smoke alarm weekly. If it is battery-operated, make sure it gets a new battery every year.
- keep matches and other firelighters away from children

## ...going out or going away?

### Q. My home is going to be unattended for a short time. What should I check before I go?

#### For home security check that:

- all the doors and windows are latched and locked
- the garage and/or shed are locked
- electrical timers are used to turn on lights and radios to give that 'lived in' look

If you are working in the backyard or in an isolated part of the house, ensure your front door is locked.

#### For fire safety:

- close all internal doors to help reduce fire spread and consequent damage in the event of a fire



### Q. I will be leaving my home unattended for a long period. What should I do before I go?

#### For home security:

- don't leave blinds and shades in one position
- ensure all doors and windows are shut and secured
- make sure you have locked the garage and/or shed
- use electrical timers to turn on lights and radios
- activate your security system
- ask neighbours to 'be nosy' and watch your house in your absence
- arrange for a neighbour to collect your mail and other deliveries and to put your rubbish bin out

#### For fire safety:

- install an approved Safety Switch (residual current device) so that a faulty electrical appliance has its power cut off rapidly
- ensure that any lights and electrical timers operating during your absence are used according to the manufacturers' recommendations
- turn off all non-essential electrical appliances at the powerpoint
- close all internal doors to help reduce fire spread and consequent damage in the event of a fire

### Want more information?

**For Fire Safety information**  
please contact  
FESA Community Safety  
on **9323 9300**.



**For Home Security information**  
please contact  
the Police Crime Prevention Unit  
on **9356 0555**.



**Please report any information  
about any suspicious behaviour  
and/or persons or fire lighting  
to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.**



**In case of an emergency call 000.**

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