



Not all burglars are hardened criminals. They are opportunists looking for an easy take and will move on at the first sign of any obstacle. But professional burglars are sophisticated - they watch homes for a while before making a move to get an idea of the occupants' behaviour patterns. The key is to convince burglars that your home is not worth the risk and that easier targets can be found elsewhere.

A sturdy **perimeter wall or palisade fence** offers privacy and acts as your first line of defence. This is followed by secure and sturdy **access gates**. Ensure that gates cannot be lifted off their rails and that gate motors are well hidden and can't be accessed easily.

An **electric fence** offers an extra security barrier and serves as a further deterrent to criminals. Check for vulnerable spots where the fence can be bypassed, e.g. stepping on the wall or using a nearby tree for leverage.

Inspect exterior **doors** regularly to ensure the door frames are sturdy, hinges protected, and locks are functioning optimally. If you are moving into a new home, change the door locks to ensure nobody has a key to your home. Additional security for exterior doors: install deadbolts, strike plates and door sensors; upgrade to smart locks; add security locks to sliding doors; boost security with a video doorbell.

Windows are a common entry point for criminals. Manufacturer latches are not always effective, and added features can secure home windows: reinforce glass with security film; install window sensors or glass break sensors; and add burglar bars to all windows, including those above ground floor.

Security cameras is one home security solution that works as both a deterrent and a means to get justice. You can get security cameras that are part of a complete home security system or use cameras that work independently. Whichever one you choose, we recommend using a security camera with a mobile app, so you can see footage in real-time and store it if you ever need to go to the police.



Vandals, burglars, and other criminals dislike being in the spotlight. Keep them at bay with ample **outdoor lighting**. Place lights around your front and back yards, along pathways, and near the garage and other outdoor structures. Make your outdoor security lights even more effective by using motion-activated lights, and save energy and beat load shedding with solar-powered lights.

Think like a thief and critically evaluate your home security to identify gaps. Boost it to the highest level you can afford.



Trees and shrubs provide burglars with a place to hide. Trim trees and plants around your home that could be used for cover.



Security beams in and around your home should be set up so that different zones can be activated as needed.

They serve as an early warning system, allowing you more time to react.

Criminals frequently use garages as a point of entry into the home. Even if they can't access your home, valuable items are often stored in the garage. Ensure that exterior and interior doors remain locked.