



**Start your year off on the right foot by creating the habit of regularly testing your safety and security systems**

- Test your alarm system and electric fence once a month.
- Test fixed and mobile panic buttons once a month.
- If you have a sensor-operated alarm, go from room to room once a month and ensure that movement registers throughout your house. Walk around each room to check that the red light is visible on the sensor.
- Regularly check the batteries in your alarm system, wireless beams and CCTV. Batteries have a limited life span and need to be replaced every few years.
- Check that your cameras are positioned correctly and clean the lenses to ensure good, clear footage.



**Remember to check your security system:**

- After any scheduled maintenance workers visit your home. No matter what they're working on, it's best practice to ensure they haven't interfered with your security accidentally.
- After you've had a house sitter, babysitter or pet sitter in your home. They may have made changes to your system, such as disabling alarms for their own easy access.
- After any significant changes are made to your internet connectivity or provider. If your security system uses the Internet, those changes could affect the responsiveness of your system.
- When renovations are completed, whether it's inside or outside - you may have accidentally altered something, like camera angles.

**Load Shedding Safety**

Stage 6 (and higher) load shedding brings additional safety and security challenges, as many backup systems are not designed to support outages of four and more hours. It is easy to become complacent, please follow the following safety procedures during load shedding:

- Ensure that you have adequate backup batteries or a solar system to operate your security gate and alarm system.
- Some electronic gates open automatically during power cuts - ensure that you are aware of this when the power goes out.
- Invest in a portable power bank to charge your phone – you will need it to report any emergency during load shedding.
- Invest in emergency lights that will switch on during power outages.
- Make sure that you have a fully charged torch and have torches accessible to children (where possible) in their bedrooms.
- Switch off all non-essential electrical appliances during load shedding.
- Always remember to switch off the stove.

