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Clever Security Tricks That Will Fool Any Burglar

A little ingenuity can make your house more secure when you're home alone or away on vacation.



Popular in the UK, "anti-climb paint" makes surfaces slippery so burglars can't shimmy up them

You don't have to install a pricey or crazy security system to feel safer in your home. Here are some low- and no-cost ways to keep burglars at bay.

Don't sleep alone: If you're sleeping solo these days, take your car's remote control to bed with you. If you hear suspicious noises, push the remote's "panic" button and let the alarm scare away intruders.

Fake it: Pretend you're home watching "Downton Abbey" and deter burglars with FakeTV (\$34), a small gizmo that glows and flashes like the flicker of a television set. FakeTV

uses the same energy as a nightlight, and has a built-in light sensor and timer, which turns it on at dusk and off when you wish.

Slippery when wet: In the U.K., they slather "anti-climb" paint, which never dries, on downspouts, gutters, and anything they don't want an intruder to shimmy up. I'm not sure if this is available in Australia yet. But it's a wild idea.

Footsteps in the snow: Virgin snow is a sure sign that no one's home. If you're away after a snowstorm, ask a neighbour's kid to tromp around your yard, creating footprints that will fool a burglar into thinking you're around but just haven't gotten around to shovelling your snow yet.

Parked car: Also, ask a neighbour to occasionally park their car in front of your house, making it look like you're entertaining visitors. And ask them to remove any fliers that may be wedged into your door or mailbox. Burglars sometimes case a home by planting a flier and checking to see if someone retrieves it.

If you are a woman living alone: Ask a guy friend to hand over their really large shoes that they are planning to throw away and place them on your front porch. And maybe, throw in some used doggie toys, too. I also read somewhere, that if you have a home security system, do not have a sign that tells the burglar what kind of security system you have. Try to display a different company from what you have. I've placed heavy sticks in my sliding doors, and use shorter ones, like maybe 3" shorter, when I want to leave my sliding doors opened on summer nights

Here are a few more Bonus tips:

1. Install motion sensitive lights that operate after the sun goes down. Any intruder can be met with 600 glaring watts of light should they venture into your yard.
2. Fence your property, and install a secure electric gate.
3. Install locks on all windows that can only be opened from the inside.
4. Install "security" outer doors instead of screened doors.
5. Put radios, televisions, lamps on timers, so they go on and off at random times, while you're away.
6. Become a member of neighbourhood watch. Neighbours helping neighbours can deter crime in your neighbourhood.

7. Have post office hold mail and newspaper held until you return.
8. Notify local law enforcement that you will be gone and for how long, so they can have a unit cruise past more often.
9. Do not make the front of your property look like there is anything special inside. If you have just a plain, generic front yard with no clue of what your income level is or what possessions may be inside, can deter somebody looking to break and enter, on a whim.

To find out more and get your home inspected call your local independent property inspector on **1800 17 88 22** or email info@ipi.net.au

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