



# **SAFETY TIPS**

## **Crime Prevention on Housebreaking:**



The Windhoek City Police Service is increasingly concerned about the escalating occurrences of housebreakings in Windhoek. The public is losing valuables such as electronic devices and other goods at an alarming rate. Criminals are opportunists, hence are mostly attracted to places that seem to be not protected.

The following tips will assist to ensure neighbourhoods are more secure.

- **Always lock up;** don't overlook the obvious. Doors and windows should be locked not only when we leave the house but when we are elsewhere in the house; on the phone, or otherwise preoccupied away from points of entry.
- **Cut away the camouflage;** debush the surroundings of your home. Burglars love camouflage and trees; shrubs can be advantageous. Intruders can be clearly seen in your front or the backyard if bushes are trimmed.
- **Deadlock the main door;** the main door is the most likely point of entry and should be your first priority. A key operated deadlock on solid timber door is the safest option. If intruders get into your house through another entry a key operated deadlock on the main door will make it more difficult for them to carry stolen goods out.
- **Secure all windows;** install burglar protective bars in all the windows. That way the burglar will take too long to break into your home.
- **Light up at night;** keep the yard lit at

night or install movement-activated sensor lights.

- **Lock the side gates;** side gates are easily overlooked. They should always be securely locked.
- **Install burglar alarm;** the best alarms to complement other forms of household security are highly visible, audible, back-to-base alarms linked to a security service that monitors and responds to their call.
- **Lock up meter box;** locking up your meter box prevents thieves interfering with your power supply or sensor light system.
- **Keep tools locked in a safe place;** sheds and garages are usually the repository of tools and other implements intruders use to assist in a break-in keep them padlocked. If there is a connecting door between the garage and your house, ensure it is always locked.
- **Plan ahead for absences or holidays;** an empty house invites criminals. Never leave your house obviously unoccupied, even briefly. Replace any ageing locks.
- **Prepare for emergency;** ensure your house number is clearly visible. If you have to call the police or other emergency services, they should be able to find your house quickly.
- **Know your Neighbour;** it is an important thing to know your neighbours and form a good neighbourly relation. A trusted neighbour will always monitor your house during your absence and

report any suspicious things.

- **Join Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your area;** the concept of neighbourhood watch is very important in that residents get to know all members of the locality and their movements. Strangers can easily be identified and the undesirable elements can be eradicated before they actually commit offences.
- **Never leave your garage door open;** when you are away because the criminal can see there is no car in the garage.
- Never leave your house keys under the front door mat or in a pot plant.
- Emphasise the need for security with your domestic worker and ensure he/she is well versed in your security measures.
- Change locks and alarm codes when your domestic worker quits the job.
- Never employ domestic workers or gardeners from the street without checking references or obtaining identity numbers.
- Never leave smaller valuable items such as jewellery, watches, portable radios, clothing, cameras or purses within an arm's length of an open window.



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