

Keeping you and your money safe

It's a sad fact of life that there are people out there happy to steal from others. To reduce the risk, there are some good tips and tricks to do your bit to keep it from happening – or at least mitigate your losses. We've compiled some of the top ways to prevent theft from happening in the first place.



Alerting you to alarms

Intruder alarms alongside robust security measures on your property are the best bet to deter wannabe burglars. There are lots on the market, and they can be roughly divided into three types:

- **Perimeter detectors** – using pressure pads and switches
- **Movement detectors** – infra-red sensors that get triggered by movement
- **Special detectors** – such as ultra-sonic vibration devices

You can use different types of alarms for different locations. It is important that , pedestrian and vehicle access areas, valuable stock areas, or places where cash is kept are properly protected.

Alarms can be audible or silent. Monitored alarms can be monitored by a professional security company using a phone line, the internet or a radio signal. Self-monitoring is usually by a mobile phone or the internet.

Intruder alarms should always be installed to strict standards, such as AS/NZS 2201 parts 1 and 5.

The low-down on lights

Lighting deters burglars, and while street lighting helps, you could explore lighting triggered by movement; Internal lighting to help security people or passers-by see inside; glare lighting which can dazzle would-be intruders; and controlled lighting which directs light at specific areas of a building.

Smile, you're on camera!

Closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) are good for catching shoplifters or suspicious activity, but, surprisingly, they aren't a great deterrent for preventing burglaries (mostly burglars just wear hoodies). If you are going for the camera option get one that works in low light, is high in resolution (i.e. can read a licence plate from a distance) and is placed in an area difficult to access. You'll also need to hook the camera up to some form of digital recording device and hide the gear in a secure cabinet.

What's the go on guards?

Security guards can be good for locking up at the end of the working day and making sure alarms are operational. Their presence on random patrols can help, and they can also be good night watchmen, or used for cash carrying duties.

Keeping cash safe

Handle lots of cash? Then consider a safe. Safes should meet New Zealand (AS/NZS 3809) or international safe standards (e.g. EN 1143.1) and be rated specifically for the amount of money or jewellery to be stored. Safes are usually made from a mix of heavy steel plate, composite barrier materials, and a fire-resistant barrier with strong locking bolts in the door and a certified key or electronic locking system. You'll need to secure any free standing safe to a floor or a wall, but whatever option you choose you should make sure it's covered by any intruder alarm. If you need to protect paper or electronic data against fire or smoke, safes aren't that effective – you'll need a specialist data or fire safe.

Cash on the move

The best option? Don't transport large amounts of cash yourself – use a professional security company. But if you do have to move money there are a few useful tips:

- Don't go to the bank at the same time every day
- Vary your route
- Go with someone else
- Use a vehicle wherever possible
- Always use a money vest of an unidentifiable carry bag.

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