



Neighbourhood Watch WAonline

www.nhw.wa.gov.au

Neighbourhood Watch

Burglary: what now?

What is burglary

The *Criminal Code of Western Australia* states that a Burglary is committed if:

A person or persons enters or is in the place of another person, without that other person's consent, with intent to commit an offence in that place is guilty of a crime and is liable—(to punishment as laid down by the statutes of Western Australia).

Consider this. Most home burglaries are committed by persons who are spur-of-the-moment opportunists. They simply see an opportunity and take it. If you, the householder take the view that security is an everyday reality then the action of closing a window or door will become second nature to you. This security conscious attitude will provide the key to reducing the risk of a burglary on your home.

What to do if you're burgled

- If you suspect someone is inside your home, do not go inside. Go to a neighbour's house and contact the police.
- If you see an intruder leaving, make a note or memorise a description of them, the vehicle and number plate.
- If the burglar has gone, do not touch anything until police are contacted to preserve possible fingerprints.
- Itemise what has been taken. Keep notes, you may even notice items missing several days after the burglary.
- Contact your insurance company and arrange for an assessor to visit your home.
- Immediately report stolen credit cards and cheque books to your bank.
- Check with your neighbours if they noticed anything suspicious.
- Re-evaluate your home security.

What to report

You need to report a burglary by calling 131 444. You will need to tell the operator:

- Where the burglary was committed;
- Between what time(s)
- Between what date(s)
- Did you see anything suspicious?
 - Car (make, model, colour, number plate, features, damage)
 - Person (gender, age, height, build, race, hair colour and length, clothing, features)

Initial police response

When you call 131 444 to report your burglary, the call-taker will obtain all the required information from you. This information will be entered as an incident report on the police computer system.

The call-taker will give you the incident report (IR) number. The number is 14 or 15 digits long and is a reference number for your burglary report.

Record the number on the front of this brochure and keep it handy. You will need it for any insurance claim and if you want to speak to the police about the burglary.

The police would have asked what was stolen. You may have been unable to supply all the details at that time (makes, models, serial numbers etc). Gather all this information together and give it to the police as soon as possible.

Incident Report (IR) Number

When you report your burglary to the WA Police, you will be given an Incident Report number. Be sure to record this number as you will need it at a later date.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Evidence: fingerprints and DNA

The attending officers would have looked at where the offenders entered your home and decided if there might be some forensic evidence. They may take some items away from your house for evidence or examination.

The attending officers may request a Police Forensic Officer make contact with you and they may attend and examine your house for evidence. Usable fingerprints are difficult to obtain so don't be surprised or disappointed if they don't get anything.

What happens to your report?

All offences are recorded on the police computer. They are then allocated for inquiry by the appropriate officer(s) in the district.

All offences are collated by the District Information Support Centre (DISC). This allows police to identify crime trends and target patrols to areas of high crime.

Many burglaries remain unsolved, however they remain on record and are reactivated if further evidence is discovered.

Insurance

You should notify your insurance company as soon as possible after the offence. You will need to supply your incident report details to them and they may check with the police to confirm the details of the offence. Remember to quote the whole incident report number.

Can I stop it happening again?

The reality is, repeat burglaries can, and do happen, and usually within six months. Often this is because the factors that originally made the home an attractive target still exist.

Many people feel that they need to increase or update the security of their homes after a burglary. This does not mean that you are to blame for being burgled, but improved security can be a positive step towards regaining peace of mind and reducing the risk of another burglary.

You do not have to turn your house into "Fort Knox" to make it secure. Some simple and inexpensive steps may be all that is required.

Victim Support Service

The [Department of Justice Victim Support Service](#) offers confidential counselling and support services to victims of crime. These services are provided by

professional counsellors and trained volunteers. It is committed to promoting the rights and addressing the needs of anyone who has suffered harm from crime.

Services available to victims of crime include:

- Counselling and support;
- Information about other relevant services;
- Referral to other support services;
- Assistance in writing a victim impact statement;
- Witness preparation and support during a court case;
- Providing information on the status of Police investigations;
- Providing information about court proceedings;
- Providing support when making an application for a restraining order;
- Assisting with enquiries about criminal injuries compensation;
- Helping you understand your rights within the criminal justice system;
- Providing information on the status of convicted offenders in Western Australia, through the Victim Notification Register.

If you would like further information about the Victim Support Service, please contact your nearest office or freecall 1800 818 988.



For more information:

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Community Safety Branch
8 Burton Street, Cannington, WA, 6107

Tel: 9356 0555

www.nhw.wa.gov.au
info@nhw.wa.gov.au