

Media release
Friday, 5th July 2024

RACT's home security tips this school holidays

As many Tasmanians prepare to go away for the winter school holidays, Tasmania's only locally owned general insurer is calling on the community to take simple steps to safeguard their homes against break-ins.

RACT Chief Insurance Officer Patrick Riley said holidays brought heightened risk of burglaries, with recent RACT research revealing concerning trends in some people's attitudes towards home security.

"One in four Tasmanians surveyed said they didn't always lock their house when not at home, and 11% leave spare house keys in unsecured areas outside their homes," Mr Riley said.

"As the winter school holidays commence, we're reminding everyone to add another layer of protection and ensure their homes are secure, whether they're travelling interstate or staying within Tasmania," he said.

Key findings from a recent RACT survey of over 600 Tasmanians included:

- 26% of respondents don't always fully lock up their homes when leaving for a short period.
- 20% leave their cars unlocked when it's parked at home.
- 11% leave spare house keys outside, often under doormats or pot plants.

With Tasmania Police reporting a 34% increase in burglaries in Tasmania between 2021-22 and 2022-23¹, Mr Riley suggested a few simple yet effective security measures to mitigate the risk of burglaries.

"Ask neighbours to watch your home while you're away and consider installing motion-detecting lights or cameras to deter burglars," he said.

"When homes are unoccupied, especially during holidays, thieves see this as an opportune time to break in and steal valuable items.

RACT recommends the following steps before going away:

1. Secure all entry points: before leaving, including doors, windows, garages, and sheds.
2. Avoid hiding spare keys outside: thieves know common hiding spots and leave spare keys with a trusted friend, neighbour, or relative instead.
3. Be mindful of social media: avoid sharing travel plans on public social media accounts to prevent alerting potential burglars of your absence.
4. Unplug appliances: protect electronics from power surges and reduce your energy bill by unplugging appliances.
5. Consider using smart home technology: modern security systems, including surveillance cameras and alarm systems, can be monitored via smartphones, providing alerts and the ability to turn lights on and off remotely to give the appearance of occupancy.

"Even basic alarm systems that emit a loud noise can be enough to scare a potential thief away," Mr Riley said.

For more information and additional security tips, visit the RACT website.

ENDS

For further information: Laura Verdouw | Timmins Ray | 0430 553 318.

¹ [Tasmania Police 2022-23 Crime Statistics Supplement](#)