

## RAC in your community

For over 100 years, the RAC has been looking out for the safety of our members in their homes, their cars and in the community.

We not only provide our members with information, we also lobby governments for legislative and policy changes.

Over the past few years this has included:

- Continuing to lobby for government burglary reduction programs, such as *Burglar Beware*, to be extended into the South and South East Metropolitan areas as well as the major regional centres of Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie.
- Pushing for a State strategy on *Designing Out Crime* initiatives to be adopted.
- Asking for a \$2 million *Designing Out Crime* fund to allow local communities to develop and implement local *Designing Out Crime* solutions.
- Urging government for a concerted effort to understand the phenomenon of road rage in WA and develop ways for it to be addressed.

To read more about RAC's involvement in community safety visit [livesafe.rac.com.au](http://livesafe.rac.com.au)

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### Metropolitan Member Service Centres

- Booragoon:** Shop 312, Garden City Shopping Centre, Riseley Street
- Carousel:** Shop 1098, Westfield Carousel Shopping Centre, Albany Highway
- Mandurah:** Shop 112, Centro Mandurah Shopping Centre, Pinjarra Road
- Morley:** Shop 1, Morley Market Shopping Centre, Bishop Street
- West Perth:** 832 Wellington Street
- Whitfords:** Shop 15, Westfield Whitford City Shopping Centre, Corner Marmion & Whitfords Avenue

### Regional Member Service Centres

- Albany:** 110 Albany Highway
- Bunbury:** Shop 20a, Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre, Sandridge Road
- Geraldton:** Shop 29, Centro Northgate Shopping Centre, Chapman Road
- Kalgoorlie:** 51-53 Hannan Street

### Contact us

General Enquiries 13 17 03  
Roadside Assistance 13 11 11  
Community Safety [livesafe@rac.com.au](mailto:livesafe@rac.com.au)  
Community Ed [communityeducation@rac.com.au](mailto:communityeducation@rac.com.au)  
[www.rac.com.au](http://www.rac.com.au)  
[www.livesafe.rac.com.au](http://www.livesafe.rac.com.au)

### TTY (numbers for the hearing impaired)

All General Enquiries 9301 3113  
Roadside Assistance 9303 8470 (24 hours, 7 days)  
Roadside Assistance SMS number 0434 182 877



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# Keeping your home safe.

## Lock the burglars out

It may sound silly, but your risk of being burgled can easily be minimised by locking your doors and windows – even when you are at home.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics notes that in WA where an actual burglary occurred (as opposed to an attempted burglary where the intruder did not gain access to the house), the main points of entry were through a door (51%) or through a window (35%). In one-third of cases this door or window was not locked.

Furthermore, in three-quarters of all burglaries, access was gained through the rear of the house. (In other words, an unlocked back door seems the most likely way to gain entry to a house.)

It is also common for a burglary to occur when the owner is in the back of the house and the intruder gains access through an unlocked front door or window.

Burglars will pick and choose what house to break into - so if your home looks secure, they will move onto the next house.

## More helpful hints

- Install security grilles or mesh.
- Have quality window locks and a deadlock installed on all doors.
- Install a sensor light.
- Make sure your shed and garage remain locked at all times.
- Even if you do not have a dog, consider hanging a 'Beware of Dog' sign on your rear gate.
- Get to know your neighbours by joining Neighbourhood Watch.
- Lock all doors and windows even if you are home.

## Did you know?

The number of residential burglaries has halved in WA over the past 5 years from a high of 4,000 in January 2002 to a low of 1,800 in June 2007. But, our burglary rate is still the highest in Australia.

## What to do when on holidays

Just because you won't be home, doesn't mean you can't do things to keep your house and your precious belongings safe. Even if you're just gone for a day, the most important thing to do is make your home look like someone is still living there.

Remember to:

- Have a trusted friend or neighbour take out your bins (and put them back again) on bin night – even if they are empty.
- Have your mail redirected and get someone to collect your junk mail.
- If you are away for a long time, get your lawns mowed and garden beds weeded.
- Try getting your neighbour to park their car in your drive for a while to give the appearance of you being home.
- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Consider getting timers so you can turn some lamps on at night.
- Turn down the ringer tone on your telephone and on your answering machine, and never say on the message you are on holidays and when you will be back. Some burglars ring first!



## Community Education

The RAC has a variety of free information sessions available to all members of the community. These include everything from getting your driver's licence, to road and personal safety. If you belong to a seniors group, social club or school and would benefit from one of our presentations, contact our Community Ed team on 9436 4471 to find out more.