



Creating safe, resilient and connected communities.

Door Knocker Safety Tips

A connected community is a safe community. Make your community a safer place by getting to know your neighbours.

We all have concerns regarding door knockers, prowlers or just people not belonging on our properties or in front of our door. It's a common-law right for any citizen to knock on anybody's front door, regardless of the time, unless they have been trespassed from that property. If you feel unsafe or think that the actions of a person seems suspicious or criminal, always contact the police first.

If you receive an unexpected knock on the door in the middle of the night, don't open your house to the stranger. Speak to them through a side window and say 'what do you want' and qualify their intent. Make use of a peephole in your door to help identify who it is, and if you don't know them, keep the door closed.

Don't answer the door for someone you don't know or don't want in your home. Ask for identification if they say they represent a company. If you're outside for an extended time, e.g. in the garden, lock your front door.

When you go out make sure to secure your doors, windows, sheds and garages with good quality locks. Even if you are planning to be out just for a short time.

- Keep valuables out of sight — if it can be seen, it can be a target.
- Install security stays on windows, especially those on ground level.
- Make sure you lock away tools and ladders, because burglars could use them to break in.
- Don't provide places for burglars to hide — keep bushes and trees trimmed.

For older people, you may also want to consider:

- Having a phone by your bed.
- Arranging with a neighbour to phone or visit you if your curtains are still drawn after a certain time in the morning.
- Having a personal or medical alarm that you can press in an emergency.
- Only discussing financial personal details with people you know and trust.

Other safety tips include:

Helping out your neighbours when they are going away, e.g. by bringing in their mail, mowing their lawn, or parking in their driveway. A "lived in" house is less likely to get burgled.

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