



# Your Risk Profile

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**Matrix Security wants to ensure that you choose the right level of service for your particular circumstances. At Matrix Security we have a wealth of information and insight about home security and criminal behaviour.**

In general and according to one of Britain's most renowned criminologists Professor Martin Gill, there are 5 preconditions that are necessary if a crime is to occur.

They are:

- i) A suitable victim
- ii) A motivated offender
- iii) A law to break
- iv) Resources for the offender to do the job
- v) Absence of a capable guardian

While we know that Matrix Security fits the role of a capable guardian, we also know that a suitable victim comes in many forms. When it comes to home security a suitable victim could include a home and/or family situation characterised by one or more of the following:

## High Frequency of 'Home Alone'

The amount of time you spend in your home alone may be a reason to review your security needs. Depending on the size or footprint of your home and grounds it is possible that you may not always hear an intruder.

Another scenario involves being at home with dependents in your sole care – whether these are children or the elderly, or those needing specialist care.

Matrix Security can advise you on the most appropriate alarm configuration and ensure a professional, trained security officer is on hand if things go wrong.

## High Frequency of 'Empty Home'

If your home is unoccupied for extended periods of time then home security warrants added attention. Burglaries often increase during the holiday periods.

A timer system for lights and arranging for newspapers or mail to be cleared is important. It is not, however, the full answer if your home is being watched by would-be offenders.

Matrix Security has a green reflector service specifically to alert would-be offenders that your property has professional patrols.

## Indoor Outdoor Flow

Although indoor outdoor flow makes for an attractive lifestyle, for burglars this can present the best opportunity to sight your valuables and to gain entry and exit. If your home has multiple French doors, bi-folds or sliding doors we suggest you reassess the likelihood of contents being removed with greater ease than otherwise.

## Upstairs Decks and Balconies

While upstairs decks and balconies can provide some protection they also enable a measure of disguise. For the determined or seasoned burglar they are simply a challenge to be overcome. More importantly by gaining entry on a second floor your home appears to be 'all in order' from ground level.

All of our Matrix Security officers are trained not to take anything for granted. They will inspect your property fully which includes looking for signs of disturbance at all levels.

## Visitors and Service Providers

If it is usual to have a number of visitors or service providers attending to your property then people generally get accustomed to movement and vehicles coming and going. This can make it more likely that genuine suspicious behaviour gets ignored. Examples include home and window cleaners, gardeners and landscapers, trades people, dog walkers and child minders.

All of our Matrix Security officers know better than to simply accept the presence of people on your property. Asking for identification or gaining some certainty that they know you, or are employed by your family, is part of our service.



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## Neighbours

Do you really know your neighbours? Could they be relied upon to either notice, observe and intervene if an offender was at large? These days the stakes are high and people live busy lives. Neighbours are less likely to get involved if they believe that you and your family are 'none of their business'. If you believe that your neighbours are unlikely or unable to assist then this is another reason to reassess your home security needs.

At Matrix Security we are very aware that neighbours rarely take risks or have the time to concern themselves with someone else's emergency especially when they may quickly assume it to be a false alarm.

## Dog Beware!

The reality is that while noisy the family pet is also easy to distract by food and confidence. Unless trained to guard, and of a size to be menacing, most dogs are friendly to humans particularly if they have been alone all day and enjoy human company.

There is also a limit to what a dog can do – especially if it gets shut in another room.

*Most family pets are friendly to humans.*



## Visibility

Is your home highly visible from the road or do you have trees, shrubs or other foliage limiting the view? The more cover around your home the easier it is for an offender to enter and remain undetected. This is also true if your home is down a long driveway and therefore out of the sight or hearing range of neighbours.

At Matrix Security we know that although offenders are brazen and crime is a factor throughout the day, the combination of night and poor visibility from the road can make your home a more appealing target.

## Gates and Fences

There is no doubt that locked or electronically controlled gates and fences do make a powerful deterrent and can undermine a major attempt to remove contents. The presence of gates may however need to be considered within the context of all other security factors.

## Security Consciousness

No matter how many devices or locks you may have, your security relies on all members of your family being vigilant – closing windows, locking doors and not leaving possessions lying around.

Matrix Security is well aware that it only takes one family member to be in a rush or to be preoccupied for a security lapse to occur. Balmy summer evenings also present opportunities as people become more relaxed about leaving windows open.

## Renovations and Alterations

Offenders can spot an opportunity a mile off! If you are planning to undertake any renovations to your home then it's best to lift your security level especially if doorways or windows are affected. Tarpaulins over roofs or building materials left lying around are definite risks. Another factor to consider is whether or not your existing security system will need to be overhauled after renovations - especially if sensors are being removed or disabled.

## Lighting

Bright light can be a very simple deterrent but it is usual to only have this around front doors, driveways and pathways. Typically though security lights do not prevent offenders from targeting side doors and windows.



*Outdoor lighting is useful at main entry points but these are not areas that real offenders target.*