

# A safer environment for students

## Town students

The University has many students who live in the Bult area and other parts of town and who socialise without being protected by safe fence like the campus residence students. Protection Services, in collaboration with the SAPS, wishes to create a safer environment for these students by making them aware of crime tendencies which are on the increase, particularly in the Bult area. After all, security starts with *you*.

We always think that we cannot become the victim of crime and that it only happens to other people. Because a crime takes place every few minutes, however, there is a fair chance that you may be the next in line. By applying a few rules you can protect your property, regardless of whether it is in your home or a rented room. If you make it difficult for the criminal to commit a crime, he will probably look for another target.

## Hints

### Outside doors

The window or wooden panel of the door next to the front door lock can easily be broken to gain access. Replace the yale lock with a proper lock which can be locked with a key. It should at least have five levers which give a great number of different key combinations. Insurance companies recommend this kind of lock for all normal insurance risks.

### Back door locks

Back doors should also have at least a five-lever lock.

### Padlocks

Padlocks on a bolt on a door should be avoided because this type of lock can be cut easily with a bolt-cutter. Instead it is recommended that you use a safety padlock which locks with a cross-key.

### Windows

Burglar bars in front of windows, whether fixed windows or windows which can open and close, are the only means of securing windows.

### Security gates

A security gate is of no use if it is left open. Keep it locked at all times. A security gate is there for your personal protection when you are on the premises and for protecting your property when you are not there.

### Bicycles

Lock all bicycles with a proper, thick chain and a big padlock. Avoid code locks, thin cables, etc. Bicycles should preferably be locked away indoors.

### Motor vehicles

When motor vehicles are parked outside, lock the steering wheel with a gorilla lock and the gears with a gear lock.

Avoid dark and deserted areas – park in a well-lit area at night.

Remove all valuable items for the period that the vehicle is without supervision. Rather place it in the boot. A thief will not know that the jacket on the back seat is worth little and will break in to search the pockets for something valuable.

It is often more expensive to replace a vehicle window than the stolen goods.

If possible, remove all CD players, radios or tape players when you leave your car without supervision.

### General

When you go out at night, lock all doors properly.

Leave on one or two lights inside, to create the impression that there are people in the house.

You can also leave on a radio during the day to create the impression that someone is home.

Do not leave a key on top of an outside door or under the doormat or under a pot plant when you go out.

Never leave smaller valuable items, such as jewellery, watches, portable radios, clothes, cameras, wallets etc., on the inside of a windowsill or in reach of an open window, even if there are burglar bars.

## A special remark to residence occupants

During their patrols at campus residences, and especially at night, Protection Services regularly find student vehicles which are **unlocked** or with **open windows**. This conduct **encourages crime**. Most cases of theft involve items stolen from vehicles, because the vehicle owner makes it so easy for the thieves.

Valuable items should not be left **in view** in the vehicle. Rather **lock valuable items in the boot** of the vehicle.

**Prevent crime by properly locking your vehicle and by ensuring that valuable items are not visible!**