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Tips for protection over the holiday period

The Insurance Council has today provided householders with some important tips to assist with the protection of their assets over the holiday period.

“It’s a timely reminder to be aware of what you are and are not covered for. With the holiday season approaching, it is extremely important to review any existing insurance policies you may have or consider taking out insurance to cover you for any possible loss that may occur – through theft or natural disaster, such as bushfires,” said Ms Kerrie Kelly, Insurance Council, Chief Executive Officer.

“Traditionally, the holiday period is the time of year when many burglaries occur. It is extremely important for householders to check the security of their car, home and contents of their home and avoid becoming a burglary statistic this holiday period.”

A number of simple steps will assist with peace of mind over the holiday period:

- Ensure your home and contents policy is up to date and that you are adequately insured – if you are not the chances of receiving a full replacement on your assets is unlikely.
- Make a detailed list of your possessions, including serial numbers and model numbers.
- Mark all ‘big ticket’ items with a code or name to prove your ownership.
- Ask your neighbours, friends or family to pick-up any newspapers or mail that builds up while you are away from home.
- Take photos of special items and jewellery and keep them with a copy of your insurance policy.
- Renew your cover after Christmas to include any valuable items you may receive.

In relation to motor vehicle insurance, owners should:

- Check their vehicle is properly insured and the insurance policy is current.
- Report any accidents to your insurance company immediately.
- Always lock your vehicle and ensure personal belongings are not exposed.

In addition it is important to check with your insurer what you are or are not covered for under your home and contents policy if:

- You are away from your home for a longer period
- If friends are staying in your home while you are away
- If you are planning to make your home available for a house swap.

“By taking into consideration the above steps, you will be doing your best to protect your home, your home’s contents and your car.”

Non insurance in Australia is a significant problem. Insurance Council research shows that 23% of households in Australia, or 1.8 million households, do not have any home or contents insurance.

“Updating your insurance policies should be first and foremost in the minds of homeowners during the Christmas period, particularly if you are planning to travel or if you live in a bushfire prone area.” Ms Kelly said.

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