

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2024

RACV AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WARN OF INCREASE IN BUSINESS BURGLARIES

RACV and Neighbourhood Watch are alerting business owners of an increase in burglaries of 39.8 per cent in 2023. According to Crime Statistics Victoria, 25,607 offences were recorded in 2023 in comparison to 18,405 offences in 2022.

RACV Head of Home and Business Insurance Kirsty Hayes is encouraging small business owners to check that their insurance policies are up-to-date and that they have the right security in place.

“We are encouraging small business owners to install a reliable security system with surveillance cameras both inside and outside their premises, ensure that the exterior of their business is well-lit and use motion sensor lights that activate with movement for the interior,” Ms Hayes said.

“Simple actions can also help deter theft such as putting display signs indicating the presence of security systems and that cash is not kept on the premises,” Ms Hayes said.

Neighbourhood Watch CEO Bambi Gordon said that cash, tobacco, alcohol, and personal property are the items most likely to be stolen from a small business retailer.

“Get to know your business neighbours. Engaging with your local business community can be a powerful preventative measure as when people come together as a community, they not only feel safer, they’re safer,” Ms Gordon said.

“Make a start by reaching out to your neighbouring businesses and connect via a private Facebook Group or WhatsApp to help you stay in touch, keep an eye out for one another and report any suspicious behaviour to police. You can also consider forming a Neighbourhood Watch business group for mutual support and shared strategies,” Ms Gordon said.

RACV recommends businesses do an audit of their premises and staff practices so they can help to better protect their assets and overall safety including staying vigilant with locks, keys and codes and taking the [How Safe Is My Place quiz](#) to help identify any ways to improve safety.

Business owners may also want to investigate optional insurance covers tailored to your business, such as additional cover for portable property or to help cover the loss of any money or goods.

-ENDS-

Further information

Since 1903, [RACV](#) has been one of Australia's most trusted brands and is the largest member organisation in Victoria.

RACV is proud to provide exceptional experiences for our Members and customers through a range of products and services across motoring and mobility, home, energy and leisure. These include Emergency Roadside Assistance, Motor Insurance, Home Insurance, Home [Trades](#) and an increasing range of options in the cleaner energy space, such as RACV Solar. We have nine resorts across Australia and a range of domestic and international holiday packages, tours and cruises from our trusted travel partners.

The information provided is general advice only. Before making any decisions please consider your own circumstances and the Product Disclosure Statement and Target Market Determinations. For copies, visit [racv.com.au](#). As distributor, RACV Insurance Services Pty Ltd AFS Licence No. 230039 receives commission for each policy sold or renewed. Products issued by Insurance Manufacturers of Australia Pty Ltd ABN 93 004 208 084 AFS Licence No. 227678.

RACV Trades is a trading name of RACV's trade partner, Club Home Response Pty Ltd (Victorian registered domestic building practitioner number CDB U 100178). All works are performed or arranged by Club Home Response Pty Ltd. trading as RACV Trades.

Media enquiries

RACV Media

Phone: 0417 041 398

Email: media@racv.com.au