

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO

BUYING SECURITY SCREENS



It's so easy to feel overwhelmed when it comes to purchasing security screens.

There are so many options out there and everyone claims to be the best. Options are great for consumers because it means you can truly find the right fit for you. The problem is it's a real challenge knowing what will be the right fit.

That's why we developed this guide – to help you navigate the complicated maze of security screen product options and how to ensure they suit your home.

When it comes to your family's safety, it's important to make educated decisions. When you purchase a security screen product, you aren't just buying a door or window, you're buying the peace of mind that your home is protected – not only when you're away, but even more importantly, when you and your family are home.



156°

ANGLE OF VIEW



119°

ANGLE OF VIEW



DOES YOUR SECURITY SCREEN MEET AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS?

In Australia, it's difficult to know which screen doors and windows are the most secure and practical, which is why industry standards have been put in place. These tests and certifications ensure transparency in the products you're paying for.

Not all security screens are made the same. While every brand will claim their products are strong, the real evidence is in their compliance with Australian standards. Make sure your installation company can offer you evidence that their product meets these standards. Amplimesh® not only meets these standards, but is also a member of the National Security Screen Association.

To break it down for you, we've highlighted the national standards your security screen should be meeting.

SECURITY TESTING



Products should be subjected to impact tests to ensure that the inherent strength and structural integrity of the manufactured security product is maintained. Look out for these Australian standard designations – **AS5039-2008 & AS5041-2003**.

Australian Standard AS5039-2008 (Security Screen Doors and Security Window Grilles) – This standard specifies performance requirements for all types of security door and window screens installed primarily in residential applications and ensures products are suitable to resist forced entry.

Australian Standard AS5041-2003 (Methods of Test – Security Screen Doors and Security Window Grilles) – This standard defines the methods of testing for security doors and window screens. Tests include a dynamic impact test, jemmy test, probe test, grille shear test, and knife shear test.



Dynamic Impact Test (Australian Standard AS5041) – The dynamic impact test was created to imitate an intruder attempting to kick, shoulder or otherwise force their way through the security screen. In order to replicate the impact an intruder is capable of exerting, a 40kg bag of lead is swung into the security screen, exerting 100 joules of energy. This test is carried out concurrently five times. To pass this test, no gap greater than 150mm can be generated around the frame, between the infill material/frame and for grille type doors, a 65mm probe must not pass.



Knife Shear Test (Australian Standard AS5041) – Materials should be tested for hardness to ensure they can withstand a physical cutting attack. To pass this test, the knife strokes must not cut through a large area of the screen. The knife shear test was created to imitate an intruder using a knife or other sharp object in an attempt to cut through the security screen. In order to replicate and exceed the power of an intruder a heavy duty knife is drawn along a 250mm line with a force of up to 350 N (35kg) horizontally and 150 N (15kg) vertically. To pass this test the knife strokes must not cut through the screen. This test is carried out three times. each time with a new knife and along the same cut line.



Jemmy Test (Australian Standard AS5041) – The jemmy test was created to imitate an intruder using a levering object, such as screwdriver to force their way through the security screen. A mechanical winch is used to apply a standard force to the screwdriver, in an attempt to pry the screen open at all hinging and locking locations. To pass this test, hinge and locking locations need to resist this attack and no gap greater than 150mm can be generated.



Pull Test (Australian Standard AS5041) – The pull test was created to imitate an intruder attempting to pull out the security screen. In order to replicate and exceed the pulling power of an intruder, up to 2 kN (200kg) is applied to the top, bottom and sides of the security screen for 20 seconds. To pass this test, the security screen must deflect the pulling attempts and not allow a gap for intrusion to be made.



Probe Test (Australian Standard AS5041) – The probe test was created to imitate an intruder creating a gap in the security screen and then attempting to get their hand to the lock on the door or window. In order to replicate and exceed the probing power of an intruder, a deflecting force of 1.5 kN (150kg) is put to each side of the breach in an attempt to increase the space and allow entry.



FIRE ATTENUATION / BUSHFIRES



Fire Attenuation Test (Australian Standard AS1530.4-2005, Appendix B7)
– Tested against incident radiant heat to reduce the heat flux between the inside and outside of the screen.



Bushfire Test – Tested to withstand the conditions of a bushfire environment. This means screens are exposed to radiant heat from a simulated fire front, exposure to ember attack as well as exposure to direct flames.

Depending on where you live, you'll have different concerns. If you live directly on the coast, you might be interested in how your screen will withstand corrosion. High quality security screens should exceed the exposure milestone of 10,000 hours of salt spray and be made using quality materials such as 316 marine grade stainless steel (Amplimesh® SupaScreen®), or 5052 marine grade aluminium (Amplimesh® IntrudaGuard®).

If you live in a bushfire-prone area, consider materials in screens that have been tested to withstand these high temperatures and feature an aperture under 2mm such as Amplimesh® SupaScreen®.



WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURES TO CONSIDER IN SECURITY SCREEN PRODUCTS?

You may have found a reputable manufacturer, a helpful dealer and a range of screens that have taken your fancy, but your work still isn't done.

Each range of security screens have so many features and options to choose from, it can be difficult to know what you're really spending your money on.

Consider the following checklist when it comes to choosing the features to suit your home and your needs.

- ✔ **Frame** – Anodised and powder-coated aluminium frames are resistant to oxidation and corrosion, which means they are long-lasting. Amplimesh® aluminium frames are extruded by Capral Aluminium right here in Australia. As a major supplier of architectural window, door and building systems products, Capral Aluminium know that a quality and finish are of the utmost importance.
- ✔ **Infill** – The infill is the material inside the aluminium security door or window frame. The options range from woven stainless steel mesh to aluminium perforated sheets. High tensile stainless steel woven into a fine mesh ensures optimum security without obstructing the view to the outside. Aluminium perforated sheets on the other hand are more cost effective. Aluminium perforated systems are made from a single sheet of aluminium metal with small holes to allow for airflow and visibility. Newer technologies like IntrudaGuard® from Amplimesh® offer exceptional visibility so are suitable for doors and windows.

SUPASCREEN



OR

INTRUDAGUARD



- ✔ **Door Locks** – Security doors must feature a ‘Triple Lock’ which features a one-flick operation that activates three locking points on the door. The triple-locking systems comes standard with all Amplimesh® installed security doors.
- ✔ **Hinged, sliding or folding doors** – The best fit with these options really depends on your home and functionality of the space. A small space may benefit from sliding doors while the folding doors are great for big open spaces that look out onto a patio or deck. Regardless of which style you choose, the door should be custom fitted and installed properly to reduce the risk of break in.
- ✔ **Security window exit screens** – Security window screens will keep out unwanted visitors but screens that open from the inside have the added benefit of allowing you and your family to escape your home easily in the case of a fire or other emergency. Security window exit screens from Amplimesh® come fitted with simple to operate, but child-proof push-open or slide-open mechanisms for easy operation
- ✔ **Energy efficiency** – Security screens assist with a home's natural cross flow ventilation. Circulate air with a ceiling fan rather than an air conditioner and save money during peak electricity periods, whilst also filtering out harmful ultraviolet light. Look for [WERS certified products](#) to ensure you are choosing a security screen that meets your energy saving needs.

- ✔ **Protection from corrosion** – To prevent corrosion, you need to consider the grade of the steel mesh used in your security screen door.

Stainless steel grades 304 and 316 are popular. Marine grade 316 stainless steel is like grade 304 with a few extra benefits. The 316 grade offers a superior corrosion resistance when exposed to corrosives such as sea water and it is higher in tensile strength, which allows the use of a finer wire making the weave more aesthetically pleasing to your home. 316 grade allows for a product that appears like a flyscreen but with super strength. The 316 grade is also durable, easy to clean, and is less likely to ever rust or corrode. If choosing a perforated aluminium option look for marine-grade quality, such as the IntrudaGuard® range from Amplimesh®.
- ✔ **Custom designs** – When it comes to finding the perfect screen door, custom designs are a fantastic way to ensure that the product will suit your home. Naturally, the prices of custom sizes and colours will vary, so to get an accurate cost, you'll require a quote from an authorised security screen dealer.
- ✔ **Warranty** – Ensure that the product you're purchasing will keep its promises. Look for extended warranties like Amplimesh's® 16 year SupaScreen® or 10 year IntrudaGuard® warranties so you can be sure that your screen will last for the long haul.



HOW TO FIT A SECURITY SCREEN INTO YOUR LIFESTYLE

While the security screens you've looked at may meet all the necessary security requirements and have the features you need, how well is this door or window screen going to fit into the aesthetics of your home?

It's a misconception that security screens have to obstruct the design of your home.

While security is an important aspect of your security screen purchase, it should also be a purchase that fits into your lifestyle. Some considerations include:

- ✔ **The colour** – While the colour of the mesh screen itself is always black to ensure light can pass through, you can customise your frame with just about any colour you can think of. Amplimesh® works with the largest coating company in the world so you can be sure to find the perfect solution to match your space.
- ✔ **Style and practicality** – Folding, hinged, and sliding doors, as well as window and security exit screens are designed and custom built to suit any space. For example, you might choose a long row of folding doors to offer an open alfresco space.
- ✔ **Better airflow** – Security Screens help keep your family safe, while allowing air to flow throughout your home. They keep young children in and intruders out, all while letting in the cool Summer breeze.
- ✔ **A clearer view** – High quality security screens will maintain the visibility of your outdoor surroundings. The best options will allow in plenty of light and won't limit your visibility so you can enjoy the outdoor view from inside your home.
- ✔ **Keep out Insects*** – Nobody enjoys pesky flies or mosquitos making their way inside. High quality screens should feature a similar aperture to that of a flyscreen to keep out insects such as mosquitos, wasps and bees.

Amplimesh® offers secure and durable product options with custom designs that will fit into any interior and exterior style and colour regime. Enquire with your local Amplimesh® dealer to find the right fit for your lifestyle.

* Insect or security mesh provides an effective barrier to insects larger than the stated aperture of the mesh. Insects smaller than the stated aperture may not be impeded



SEEK OUT THE SERVICES OF PROFESSIONALS

Finding the perfect security screen product for your home is simple when you know what to look for. Consider the features you're willing to pay more for and consider these safety features an investment. Quality security screen doors and windows will come with long-term warranties so you'll know it's money well spent.

If you're unsure about which options are best for you, [talk to the professionals](#). Amplimesh® are well known in the security screen industry for supplying reliable and quality products that stand the test of time. Visit amplimesh.com.au to find your nearest [Amplimesh® authorised dealer](#) to discuss the best option for your situation.

Choose your security screen style



AMPLIMESH®
SUPASCREEN

high tensile 316 marine grade stainless steel



AMPLIMESH®
INTRUDAGUARD

specialty tempered 5052 marine grade aluminium



Visit amplimesh.com.au or
call **1800 267 546** to speak to
an Amplimesh® certified expert