

# Fingerprint security for home

Article from: **Courier Mail**

Dave Bullard , June 13, 2007

## **WE ALL use door keys, but is there anything more outdated in our lives?**

The Egyptians used locks and keys 4000 years ago, and the first tumbler lock was patented in 1778.

Is there anything better?

Well there is, and it is in the form of keycards like those used in hotels, infra-red transmitters like those used by Mercedes-Benz, as well as proximity cards and number pads.

But all these are worthless if they're stolen or if the number is discovered. Which brings us to biometric locks – those that use fingerprint, iris, hand and face-recognition technology.

Far from being out of the reach of mere mortals, there's now an affordable fingerprint-reading door lock available at Bunnings Warehouse.

Covetek's BFS-310 is a svelte-looking zinc-alloy unit that won't look out of place on a modern building.

The outside component has a cover that slides up to reveal a blue-lit keypad and the heart of the gadget – an award-winning fingerprint sensor.

It took no time to register my finger. The sensor didn't admit me at every swipe at first, but once I got the hang of the direction and speed needed, it worked every time.

Up to 99 fingers can be registered, so there's plenty of room for the family, cleaners and tradespeople. You can delete registered fingers at any time, so you can give the plumber access to your home for a day or two, then give him the flick.

You can also temporarily suspend certain fingerprints, so you can exclude the cleaner from your home while you're away, for example.

You can also use the keypad to enter at any time by entering a PIN code. This could be a security risk, but if you keep the code to yourself you should be OK. It locks itself when the door closes.

The inside component that houses the locking mechanism is a tough-looking hand-size device.

It has three controls: an electronic open/close button, a manual open/close control and a "kill switch" that will keep everybody out.

There is also a compartment that houses the four AA-sized batteries and two programming buttons.

Covetek managing director George Doughman says the batteries should last 14 to 16 months when used 20 times a day.

Can you be left out in the cold when the batteries run out? The answer is a simple "no".

There are two battery terminals on the base of the outside unit. Just touch a square 9V battery to these and you're in business.

The BFS-310 comes in silver or gold trim, and will fit doors 3.5cm to 5.5cm thick.

Who would have thought door furniture could have such a wow factor? This is a practical, hi-tech product most people would be happy to secure on their front door, especially as it would mean its residents would no longer have to worry about losing their house keys.

**Covetek BFS-310 Fingerprint Door Lock**

**Price: \$449**

**Covetek: (02) 9404 8777,**