

Building in the bush? Tips to keep out the wildlife without losing your sense of freedom

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Building in the bush? Use these tips to keep out the wildlife without losing your sense of freedom

Building a home in any of South Africa's many wild and isolated areas can bring with it some exhilarating experiences. What could be more exciting than waking up with a leopard on your veranda or elephants wandering through your indigenous garden? But there are limits to how closely we want to commune with nature and Trellidor has a product that allows the outdoors in without it getting too close for comfort.

Let the outdoors in, but not inside

Trellidor Clear Guard is a product that can be designed to fit any door and window style. It's primarily a security barrier that is installed next to your doors and windows, around your patio or boma, or in passages. It has been engineered to be strong enough to stop human intruders from breaking into your home, but is equally useful as a humane and barely-there screen that keeps animals and insects out too.

Each individually designed Trellidor Clear Guard barrier consists of a neat aluminium frame with a stainless steel mesh insert. The mesh insert makes up the bulk of the screen, so the barrier doesn't block your views of the outside. In fact, you see right through it and won't miss out on any birds alighting in the trees outside or animals ambling by.

Excellent design, great styling

The barriers are made to measure and professionally installed for excellent fit and can be manufactured to suit any door or window style. For example, sliding glass doors will be fitted with sliding Trellidor Clear Guard units, with locks and handles positioned so that they don't interfere with your existing door handles.

The units can be powder coated to suit your bush lodge and blend in with the surroundings. Sand and brown are the most popular colours for these applications, as they don't clash with the natural tones of the wild.

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Effective against clever primates

In some parts of the country, monkeys and baboons have worked out how to lift sliding doors off their tracks to get into the home and its promise of easy access to food. They've also learned to open most types of door handle, and to push an infant through small openings in burglar proofing so that they can bring food outside to the waiting adults.

Trellidor Clear Guard units are extremely difficult for them to breach. Firstly, the product's tracks are too deep for them to be lifted off, and secondly, the door handle operation is completely unique and units are lockable. The mesh screen leaves no gaps for animals to get through. With these security screens on all doors and windows, you'll no longer get home to find the devastation these otherwise cute primates can cause.

Keeps out insects and other pests

The mesh screen that makes up the bulk of a Trellidor Clear Guard unit is industrial grade and highly resistant to a break-in attempt. The screen is also tightly woven enough to keep out annoying insects such as mosquitoes and miggies. Snakes, frogs and other more aggressive animals like warhogs also find themselves blocked out of your home by these security screens.

Bush lodges around the country have installed Trellidor Clear Guard to extend their guests' time sipping sundowners on the veranda. Doors and windows can be left open if the security screens are closed, keeping insects out but allowing in the cool night air as well as the sights and sounds of the bush. This is particularly important in those areas where malaria is a problem.

Not a DIY product

Trellidor Clear Guard security screens are only available from official Trellidor franchises.Â Each door or window has to be accurately measured and a screen manufactured to those specifications.Â A trained Trellidor technician installs the units and demonstrates how to use them.Â There are over 70 Trellidor franchises around South Africa and there are also a number throughout the rest of Africa.