



DON'T BE A BUNNY WITH YOUR CAR KEYS THIS EASTER

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) today urged motorists to be vigilant in protecting their car keys to minimise the risk of vehicle theft over the Easter long weekend.

Australia experienced a rise in thefts around Easter last year with close to 200 vehicles stolen every day throughout March, making the Easter holiday period a particularly high risk period for vehicle theft.

The NMVTRC's Executive Director Ray Carroll said, "We often see increases in the number of thefts around peak holiday periods. With many people going on holidays and leaving one of their cars at home, the Easter long weekend can be a particularly lucrative time for car thieves."

Older cars that lack adequate security such as an immobiliser were still the most at risk. However, the majority of late model vehicle thefts occur where the thief has gained access to the car keys. If your car is worth \$20,000, that could be the value of your keys to a thief."

Mr Carroll called for all motorists to follow these simple car safe tips to reduce their risk of theft:

- If you are going on holidays and leaving the car behind, be sure to take all keys with you.
- Park wisely – use off-street parking where possible or even better, park in a garage or behind lockable gates.
- Lock all doors and close windows when parked. A few minutes with the windows down will cool the car when you return. On a safety note, never leave children or animals locked in an unattended vehicle.
- Keep in mind that it is a road rule offence to not secure your car if you are more than three metres away from the vehicle. Lock your car and close all windows to avoid risking an infringement notice.
- Be sure to remove both personal navigation devices and their holders from parked vehicles. Be aware that the suction cup mark left on the windscreen can alert thieves to there being a navigation device in the vehicle even after it is removed from view.
- If you own an older vehicle, consider installing an engine immobiliser to greatly reduce your risk of theft.

“By following these precautions all motorists can greatly reduce the risk of becoming a victim of theft during the Easter break – it is simply a matter of being aware and taking simple security measures,” Mr Carroll said.

The top late model theft targets in 2008 were:

Holden Commodore 1999 - 2004

Ford Falcon 1999 - 2004

Mitsubishi Lancer 1999 – 2004

Toyota Hilux 2002 – 2007

Toyota Corolla 2002 – 2007

The NMVTRC is an initiative of all Australian governments and the insurance industry.

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www.carsafe.com.au