

The myths and realities of vehicle theft

Myth "It won't happen to me."

Reality On average one in every 70 Australian households had a vehicle stolen in the last 12 months. Yes, it could happen to you.

Myth "No one would want to steal my old bomb."

Reality The majority of stolen vehicles are more than ten years old. Your old bomb is at greater risk than many other cars, particularly if it isn't fitted with a quality engine immobiliser.

Myth "My car is insured so it doesn't matter if it is stolen."

Reality Research indicates that, on average, victims of opportunistic theft incur \$7,000 in out of pocket expenses. Victims report that mechanical and body damage, up-front excess payments and the loss of work tools, sporting equipment, stereos and CDs often result in costs far beyond insurance coverage. Some reported losing photographs and personal letters that can't be replaced while others regretted their car being used in neighbourhood burglaries or injuring innocent people.

Myth "If thieves want my car they'll get it no matter what I do."

Reality Most thefts are a matter of opportunity. Opportunists take advantage of easy targets like older cars that they can "hotwire" in seconds or a set of keys left in an ignition or lying around. These thieves will be deterred by the security of an engine immobiliser and a lack of opportunity to get hold of a vehicle's keys.

Theft Prevention Tip: To minimise the risk of theft to an older vehicle, install an Australian Standards (4601:1999) certified engine immobiliser.

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) is an independent, not-for profit organisation established by all Australian governments and the insurance industry. The NMVTRC is working with its partners to reduce Australia's unacceptably high level of vehicle theft and the associated costs of this crime to the community.

Our Council is drawn from the major national bodies whose systems and practices can have a direct impact on vehicle theft. This includes government justice and transport agencies, insurers, vehicle manufacturers, the motor trades and motoring associations.

To find out more:

www.carsafe.com.au

National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council

Tel: 1300 668 410

Email: info@carsafe.com.au

An initiative of all Australian Governments and the Insurance Industry



Don't get bitten by car theft

Car Safe Tips





Most people rely on their car for shopping, getting the kids to school and weekend activities, social life and work. Last year almost 100,000 Australian victims of theft found out just how difficult life is without their vehicle.

Car safe tips

Reduce the risk of theft by following these tips:

Protect your keys

If your car is worth \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$30,000 then that could be the value of your keys to a thief.

- **NEVER** leave your car unattended with the key in the ignition. Many cars are stolen from petrol stations, corner stores and driveways where the owner has left the car, with key in the ignition, sometimes for even less than a minute.
- **DON'T** leave keys lying around on tables, desks or key hooks. If a thief can see your unattended keys, it is likely that he or she can figure out how to get hold of them.
- **NEVER** hide a second set of keys anywhere on your car: thieves know where to look.
- A good rule is that if the car is at home but you are out make sure **ALL** the keys are with you.

Park wisely

- If you have off-street parking, **USE IT**. Even better, park behind lockable gates or in a locked garage. Parking on the

street increases the risk of theft considerably.

- At night, park in a **WELL LIT** area. Opportunists often look for unsecured cars to get them around or home from a night out.
- Use secure parking facilities where they are available.
- In car parks where you must leave the keys, ask the operator how the keys will be secured.

Remove temptation

- When leaving your vehicle unattended, fully close the windows, lock all the doors and take the keys with you.
- Theft from cars is very common. **NEVER** leave items such as mobile phones, bags, CDs or other valuables in sight in your unattended vehicle. If you need to leave valuables in your car, hide them **BEFORE** you get to where you are going to park.

Secure your vehicle

- Steering locks can provide a visual deterrent but, because they take time and effort to fit, all too often they are left on the floor of the vehicle instead of fitted to the steering wheel. If you have one, use it.
- Better still and for maximum protection, an engine immobiliser that meets Australian Standard 4601:1999 requires no effort to activate and provides the most effective deterrent to opportunistic theft.

Quality immobilisers for under \$200 recommended retail price are available, installed, under the CAR-SAFE Immobilise Now! program. Call 1300 132 146 for more information.



A word about safety

NEVER leave children or animals locked in an unattended vehicle.

If you have information on stolen vehicles contact **CRIME STOPPERS** anonymous hotline on

1800 333 000
(Tasmania 1800 005 555)

