

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?

DON'T LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR

Simple steps you can take to avoid theft from your car.

By international standards NSW is a safe place to live and since 2000 there has been a reduction of over 5 per cent in thefts from cars in NSW.¹

Even so, in the 12 months to June 2008, the number of cases of theft from cars rose above 60,000 per annum for the first time since 2004.

Having your car broken into and valuable personal items stolen is not only inconvenient, it can also be both distressing and expensive. The cost of repairing damaged windows or locks can often exceed the value of the items stolen.²

THE MOST COMMONLY STOLEN ITEMS AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO AVOID THEFT

RANK	ITEM	USUAL METHOD OF THEFT	WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT THIS?
1	Registration plates	Removal with a screwdriver	Install theft-resistant registration plate screws
2	GPS devices	Smashed window	Remove portable GPS devices when you park your car; wipe off suction marks left on your windscreen and turn off Bluetooth devices
3	Cash	Smashed window, forced lock	Don't leave any valuables in your car
4	Laptop computer, mobile phone	Smashed window – used Bluetooth to detect presence	Turn off Bluetooth devices and don't leave valuables in your car
5	Money and other valuables	Smashed window, forced lock	Don't leave any valuables – no matter how small – in your car



NSW Police Force
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(1) BOC&AR, Report 2008-68648-15, Crime Trends Tool (2) Mayhew, P. (2003) Counting the Costs of Crime in Australia, Australia Institute of Criminology

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Here are the facts on thefts from motor vehicles:

- 1 Most are crimes of opportunity³
- 2 Items are often visible from outside the vehicle
- 3 The most common method is breaking a car window⁴

MAKE YOUR VEHICLE SAFE

- 1 Don't keep valuables and personal items in your car. Don't leave anything that might be tempting.
- 2 Make sure all windows are closed and doors are locked.
- 3 Keep all valuables out of sight. If you choose to leave valuables in your car, lock them in the boot.
- 4 If you park in a garage make sure you lock it.
- 5 Park safe. Try to avoid parking on quiet streets and make sure you park where it's well lit, visible to pedestrians and free of any object that may obscure your car.
- 6 Keep your keys safe. Keep them secure. Don't have your name or home address on them – a mobile phone number is best.
- 7 Use a high quality steering wheel lock.
- 8 Install a high quality electric alarm.
- 9 Install an engine immobiliser. (Immobilisers should meet Australian Standard 4601:1999)

In NSW there are four ways to report a crime:

- 1 In a life-threatening or time-critical emergency, call Triple Zero (000).
- 2 For non-urgent crime, phone the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 who will take a police report and if necessary, arrange for police to attend.
- 3 Should you wish to remain anonymous when reporting a crime, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. It's a free call and rewards of up to \$1,000 are offered for information that leads to an arrest.
- 4 You can visit your local Police Station to report a crime.



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