

Tips for making your car more secure

- Never leave keys in the ignition when vehicle is unattended.
- Lock your car when paying for fuel.
- Close all windows, lock all doors before leaving your car unattended.
- Don't leave valuables within view, lock them in the boot or take them with you.
- Don't leave registration papers, drivers licence or other papers or cards in unattended car. Paperwork found within could advise a thief that the home address of the owner is unattended at that time.
- Don't have personal address on tags attached to car keys.
- Don't hide spare car keys anywhere on the car.



VICTORIA POLICE

**For emergency
assistance telephone
"000" (free call)**

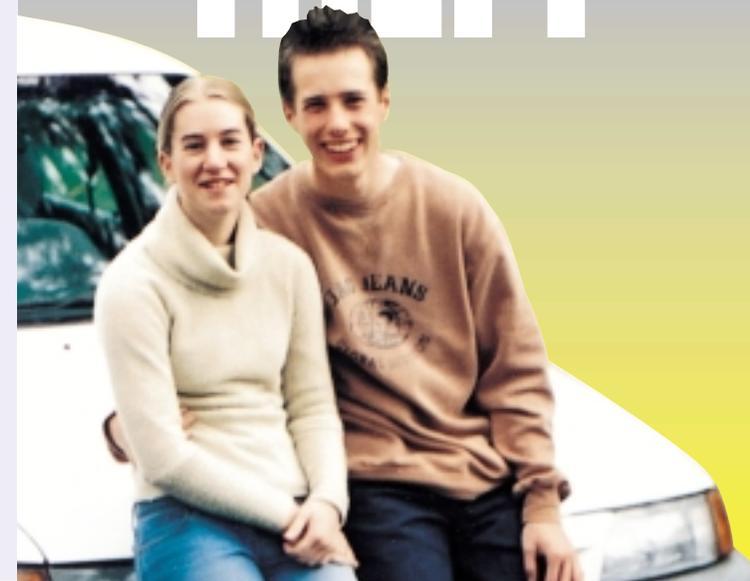
FURTHER INFORMATION

For additional information on preventing car theft please contact:

- Your nearest police station, or
- Community Consultation and Crime Prevention Office, Concourse Level, Victoria Police Centre 637 Flinders Street, (P.O. Box 415) Melbourne, 3005.
Ph:(03) 9247 5311
Fax: (03) 9247 5313
Web: www.neighbourhoodwatch.com.au
- National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council
Web: www.carsafe.com.au



STOP CAR THEFT



This brochure contains general guidelines to prevent the theft of motor cars. The providers of this information make no representation nor give any warranty or guarantee concerning the safety of property.



National Motor Vehicle
Theft Reduction Council
driving down vehicle theft

www.neighbourhoodwatch.com.au



Car Theft: The Facts

It can take less than a minute for a thief to break into, and steal a car.

Approximately 75% of stolen cars will be recovered within a few days, however, many of these will be badly damaged.

The remaining 25% will be given a new identity or stripped for parts.

Car theft in Victoria represents approximately 9% of total crime reported there.

The recovery rate of vehicles stolen in Victoria is high (over 80%), however, many have sustained moderate or serious damage. Insurance claims amount to over \$50,000,000 annually.



Profile of a Car Thief

Generally, car thieves can be divided into two distinctive categories: the opportunist and/or the professional.

The opportunist is a person who may see your car as a means of transport to get to or from work, or simply to keep out of the rain. They may see it as an easy target and take it for a joy ride. Often when a car has been stolen by an opportunist, and is recovered, it is returned to the owner in a damaged state.

Professional car thieves are differently motivated and steal cars for profit. They are usually organised, work in teams and are either after specific car parts or intend to change your car's identity, to re-sell it later.

What to do if your car is stolen

- Report it to the Police immediately
- Give Police the registration number, make, model and colour of the vehicle
- Notify Police of the location and time of disappearance
- Notify your insurance company immediately

What Can I Do?

Adopting the following strategies may reduce the opportunity for crime and decrease the chances of your car being stolen.

- Install an effective anti-theft device
- Park your car off the street, preferably in your yard or driveway or at a staffed parking centre.
- If parking your car on the street during the night select a well-lit area.
- Consider installing any of the following:
 - Engine immobiliser
 - An ignition shield
 - A visible locking device
 - A battery isolator

