



## What to do if there is an intruder in your home

Most offenders try to avoid being discovered and will take flight if encountered. If you find an intruder in your home leave them a clear exit path (or vacate the house yourself if safe to do so). Try to record the descriptions of any suspects or suspicious vehicles and call 000 as quickly as possible.

Be sure to discuss a plan with your family or housemates on what to do in the case of an intruder entering your home.

### Have you seen the NMVTRC's latest community service announcements on vehicle theft with keys?

Visit [www.carsecuritybeginsathome.com](http://www.carsecuritybeginsathome.com) to view the ads and download the NMVTRC's free security assessment guide for your house.

## Who we are

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) is an independent, not-for profit organisation established by Australian governments and the insurance industry. The NMVTRC works 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 visit [www.carsafe.com.au](http://www.carsafe.com.au)

Advice provided in this brochure on residential burglary prevention and what to do in the case of an intruder entering the home has been drawn from guides produced by Victoria Police and Tasmania Police. Links to these and all other police service guides can be found at:

[www.carsecuritybeginsathome.com](http://www.carsecuritybeginsathome.com)

Further information on the Australian Standard for lock sets and intruder alarms can be obtained from Standards Australia:

[www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au)



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An initiative of Australian governments and the insurance industry

# CAR THIEVES GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO STEAL YOUR KEYS FROM HOME



**CAR SAFE**  
Driving down vehicle theft

# Car security begins at home

Most of us rely on our cars – whether it is for work or uni, taking the kids to school, or for social activities. Having a car stolen can be stressful, inconvenient and costly.

Even if you're insured, hidden personal costs such as insurance excesses, on-going loan repayments, car hire and alternative transport costs can add up to thousands of dollars.

The advanced immobiliser systems now fitted to new vehicles as standard equipment have helped to reduce theft volumes by more than 50 per cent over the past decade.

However, no matter how sophisticated these systems are, if a thief is able to steal your keys and transponder, your car could be gone long before you realise these items are even missing.

Many people think it won't happen to them. But around one in every 120 Australian homes fall victim to car criminals each year.

By following a few simple steps to safeguard your keys at home you can greatly reduce your risks.

## The facts

- In Australia a car is stolen every 12 minutes.
- Advances in security technology have made it impossible to 'hot wire' a modern car.
- 70 per cent of late model vehicles are stolen with the keys.
- Thieves are now targeting homes to steal car keys, which is a concern because:
  - half all cars stolen are taken from the home; and
  - another 25 per cent are stolen from a garage or the street outside the owner's home.
- The thefts are almost always opportunistic, with offenders often entering premises through unlocked doors and windows.
- Some offenders are prepared to enter occupied premises to quickly grab keys left in easily accessible spots.
- The cars stolen in burglaries are mostly being used to commit other crimes, including other burglaries.

## What can you do?

Enhance your home's security – a secure home means a secure car:

- Keep trees and shrubs well-trimmed in order to provide a clear line of sight to the street and reduce potential hiding places.
- Ideally front fences should allow clear visibility to the front door and any windows.
- External doors and frames should be of solid construction and fitted with quality deadlocks which comply with AS 4145.1:2008.
- Fit quality key-operated lock sets to windows.
- Lock doors and windows when gardening or working outside or in an isolated part of the house.
- Keep your garage locked to restrict unauthorised access.
- Motion activated external security lighting can deter intruders.
- Consider installing a home alarm system that meets AS/NZS 2201.1:2007.
- Plan and discuss with your family or housemates what to do in the event that you or they encounter an intruder entering or already in your home.
- Download a free security assessment guide from: [www.carsecuritybeginsathome.com](http://www.carsecuritybeginsathome.com) and conduct an audit of your home's security.

Safeguard your keys – they are worth as much as the value of your car:

- Always store car keys out of view and away from external doors and windows.
- Thieves mostly target the master bedroom first, followed by the living room and home office.
- If the car is at home but you are out make sure you have all the keys with you. (When you are out, don't leave keys unattended in bags, lockers or the like.)
- Don't tag your keys with your name or address – use a mobile phone number or driver licence number instead.
- If your home has been broken into and your keys are stolen, change the cylinders in the locks or fit additional locks.
- Never leave a spare set of house or car keys in your car.
- Be a good neighbour. If you notice any suspicious activity report it immediately to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or police on 131 444 in all states except for Victoria. In Victoria contact your local police station.

DON'T BE A VICTIM