

DON'T BE A  
VICTIM

## Important points

If physically threatened, please remember that your personal safety is far more important than your car. Also, unlike most other forms of theft in which there are no witnesses, your recall of events can greatly assist police in tracking the perpetrators down. In the event of a carjacking, take special note of any distinguishing features of the persons and vehicles involved. Report the incident to police as soon as you can.

Remember, if you have information about stolen vehicles, contact Crime Stoppers hotline on 1800 333 000 (Tasmania 1800 005 555). You may do so anonymously if you wish.

## Who we are

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) is an independent, non-profit organisation established by all Australian governments and the insurance industry. The NMVTRC works with its partners to reduce Australia's unacceptably high level of vehicle theft, as well as the associated costs of this crime to the community.

Our Council is drawn from major national bodies whose systems and practices 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)



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*driving down vehicle theft*

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An initiative of all Australian governments and the insurance industry

## WISH YOU'D KNOWN THE FACTS ABOUT VEHICLE THEFT WITH FORCE



**CAR SAFE**  
*Driving down vehicle theft*

You may have heard about instances of vehicle theft with force, or carjacking as it's more commonly known in the media. Despite media attention, vehicle theft with force is actually very rare. However, it is a serious crime. The tips in this brochure are designed to minimise the opportunities and your risk of becoming a victim of this type of theft.

## Be prepared

Traumatic and unpredictable, theft with force involves the forceful removal of an owner from his or her vehicle. It most commonly occurs when vehicle owners are in the following vulnerable situations:

- when the vehicle is advertised for sale;
- as the driver is entering or leaving the vehicle;
- while the vehicle is stationary at traffic lights; or
- immediately after a coordinated low-speed collision.

Most vehicles taken by force are prestige, high performance or other high-value cars. Many will be used to commit other crimes and then abandoned or burnt. Some vehicles will be either shipped out of the country, stripped down and sold for spare parts, or given the identity of another vehicle and reregistered.

Remember, theft with force can be avoided. Follow the tips in this brochure to make you and your car less desirable to would-be carjackers.

## General tips

- Keep your doors locked when driving.
- When stopped in traffic, leave sufficient space between you and the vehicle in front so you can drive away if need be.
- Remember, you're actually obliged to stop after an accident to render assistance and exchange personal details. So unless there are clear signs of an impending threat, just act normally.
- If while in your car, someone you don't know wants to talk to you, only open the window sufficiently to communicate – not far enough to allow the person to reach in.
- Don't leave your keys in the car when it is unattended – not even in your driveway or at the service station when you pay for petrol.
- Lock your car when you are not in it (and don't leave children or pets in an unattended car).
- Don't keep registration papers in the car – this will assist thieves in disposing of your car more swiftly.
- Know the registration number of your car and always be aware of the name of the road you are driving on. This will be useful information to report if your car is stolen.
- Avoid parking in remote places, especially at night.
- When approaching your parked car, be aware of your surroundings. If you are suspicious of anyone following you or standing near your car, turn away and call the police.

## Selling your car

- Don't advertise your address or provide it to potential buyers over the phone.
- Arrange to meet potential buyers in an open public space.
- Take note of the licence plate and model of the car the potential buyer has arrived in.
- Write down the details of the potential buyer's drivers licence before a test drive.
- An unusual but effective idea is to take a photograph of the potential buyer.
- Don't allow the potential buyer to test drive the car without you and, ideally, bring a friend or family member with you as well.
- When on a test drive, take note of whether you are being followed by the potential buyer's vehicle. If so, turn around or take the car to the nearest police station.
- Do not get out of the car while the engine is running. Many incidents of a potential buyer jumping into the driver's seat and driving away have been reported.
- A prudent buyer will ask to see proof that you own the vehicle, such as a registration certificate. Only show documents that include your address after you have noted a potential buyer's identity details.

With thanks to New South Wales Police Force for their original research materials.