

THIEVES PICK EASY TARGETS

Make it tougher for crooks

You can help frontline police make it tougher for crooks by being aware and making small changes to how you look after your valuables and home.



Tips for car users

- Remove all valuables from your car and do not leave any belongings or coins where they can be seen.
- Remove any detachable items, such as GPS or your car stereo.
- Avoid parking in deserted car parks or far away from other vehicles.
- Try to park your car in a well-lit area.
- Ensure your vehicle is always locked.
- Close all of your windows – even when you're at the petrol station.
- Have your keys in your hand before you get to your car – be aware of your surroundings.
- At home, keep your car keys in a safe place out of sight and away from windows and doors where they could easily be taken.
- Consider purchasing a car alarm. Check with your insurance company as it could reduce your premium.
- If you have a garage, use it. When your car is out of sight it is less likely to be a target for thieves.

Tips to keep your valuables safe

- Keep a close eye on your belongings at all times.
- If you're going shopping, make sure your bag is closed and don't leave it unattended in your trolley.
- Don't leave your phone or bag unattended in public.
- Be wary of anyone who tries to distract you.
- Be observant and aware of people who may appear suspicious. If you feel unsafe, remove yourself from that location.
- If someone attempts to steal your bag:
 - Try to remain calm and observe the thief so you can give an accurate description to the police.
 - Avoid physically resisting the thief. No amount of money is worth the risk of serious injury.
- When withdrawing cash at an ATM shield your Personal Identification Number (PIN).
- Keep minimal amounts of cash in your wallet or purse, and hide your cash from view of other people.
- Secure your payWave/PayPass cards as purchases under \$100 don't require a signature or PIN.
- Record your mobile phone's IMEI number once you purchase a new phone. This is near the phone's battery.

Tips to secure your home

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
- Keep valuable items such as computers, laptops, tablets, game consoles, stereos and mobile phones out of sight.
- Do not leave spare keys hidden outside – leave them with a neighbour, friend or relative.
- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed to reduce the opportunity for burglars to hide and increase visibility from the street.
- Be mindful of posting information about yourself on social media. Saying you are on holiday suggests you aren't home.
- Activate your alarm when leaving your home unattended.
- If you don't have an alarm system consider investing in one – it will be a deterrent and will provide you with peace of mind.
- If you're on holiday, arrange for mail to be held by Australia Post or collected daily by someone while you are away.
- Install motion sensor lights to the exterior of your property.
- Destroy boxes from any large new appliances you have purchased so they are not on display for burglars to see.

