

# Preventing Theft of Motor Vehicles

Car thieves may be either opportunistic or professional. In either case stolen vehicles may be used to commit further offences and be damaged, destroyed or never recovered.

Most car thefts occur in or around private residences, so it is important to take steps to protect your car even when it is parked in a garage, driveway or on a residential street.

## Checklist

Lock Up	Tick
Lock your car – always physically check it is locked, even when parking at home or just leaving your car for a moment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Close all windows - including sunroof	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep your car locked while driving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure Your Car	
Park your car in a locked garage if possible	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park off the street in your driveway if you don't have a garage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park in a well lit area to increase the risk that others will detect thieves	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install an engine immobiliser and car alarm if they are not already fitted	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider using a steering wheel lock – particularly for older vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider installing a bonnet lock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install a GPS tracking device for rare and expensive cars	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Key Crime Prevention Tips

- **Lock** all doors and close all windows
- **Park** in a well-lit and secure area
- **Secure** your keys and never leave them in your car
- **Install** anti-theft devices and ensure they are working.

## Key Security

In many cases of car theft, keys have been left in the ignition.

- Never leave your keys in your car
- Do not put your name and address on any keys – use a mobile phone number
- Keep spare car keys in a secure place at home or at work.

## If Your Car Has Been Stolen

- Report the theft to police or call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency
- Notify your insurance company immediately.



VICTORIA POLICE

