

How to reduce the risk of thieves breaking into your car

Most thieves are opportunistic. They will see something in a car and if the car is unlocked or there is no one around – in other words the risk of being caught is low – they seize the chance to take whatever they can in the hope they can get something worthwhile.

Cars can be broken into for as little as a few dollars in loose change. If an offender puts a good few hours into a few dollars here and there, it can really add up.

Here are a few simple steps to prevent someone breaking into your car and reduce your chance of having your belongings stolen.

Remove loose change in the console

Having money visible from outside your car can also make other items in your car vulnerable to theft if a thief breaks in.

Remove valuables from the backseat

Before you leave your car, make sure anything valuable is hidden from view or put in the boot of your car – the less thieves can see, the less there is to steal. Making sure handbags, gym bags and electronics are out of sight.

Use the boot – make sure that nothing can be seen if someone is peering into your car.

Remove mounted GPS Units

Having a visible GPS unit in your car may tempt a potential thief to break into your car. Even GPS mounting suction marks on the windscreen can be enough to show a thief that there is something valuable in your car.

It's important to hide your GPS from view, as well as any accompanied attachments while your car is unattended.

Secure your License Plates

Number plates are the most 'popular' item stolen from cars. The rate of number plate theft is high in Victoria. Not only is number plate theft a hassle for the person whose plates are stolen, stolen number plates are often used to commit further crime.

A simple way of stopping the theft of number plates is to fix one-way, anti-theft screws to your number plates. These screws are easy for you to put on but are hard for thieves to take off, making it harder for thieves to steal.

When it comes to your car – and your home – don't tempt the opportunistic thief, make the reward look small, and the risk high.