



Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for

CAR OWNERS



1. When you leave your car unattended (even short periods), close all windows, remove key from ignition and lock all doors. Remember, it's an offence under the Aussie Road Rules to leave your car unlocked.
2. Don't hide spare keys on your vehicle. Don't kid yourself—thieves know ALL the best hiding places!
3. Ensure you have removed all valuable property from view [e.g. mobile phone, sunglasses, bag, wallet, loose change, clothing, laptop, iPod]. Either take them with you, or lock them in the boot. Remove all signs that property may be in the car, e.g. no blankets covering tempting lumps on the back seat, no carrier bags.
4. Remove any GPS (mapping/navigational system) from sight. If it was mounted on the windscreen – remove the tell-tale mark.
5. Do not overload vehicles. Know your vehicle's limit. It's worth making two trips.
6. Park in well-lit, high pedestrian areas, preferably with CCTV. Avoid car parks with a history of break-ins.
7. Stay alert while approaching your car. Get your keys out of your bag ready. Don't click the remote control until you are close to your vehicle. Look around and inside the car before getting in.
8. Consider installing a high-quality alarm, tracking/security system and/or locking devices on the steering wheel or transmission shift – all good deterrents. The most effective car alarms are switched-on people!
9. Consider installing a fuel cut-out switch and/or engine immobiliser—the most effective way to beat a thief.
10. Don't leave personal papers, such as licence or registration, in your vehicle. They may be used to dispose of the vehicle. However, do keep with you a note of your vehicle registration and Vehicle Information Number (VIN).

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)	000
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)	1800 333 000
TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line)	131 444
IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)	9476 9799
TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP	106
SPEAK AND LISTEN	1 800 555 727

ENGLISH

11. Lock vehicles in front of your home, on the driveway, in the garage - easily forgotten if you're in the garden.
12. Display a sign "All valuables have been removed from this vehicle". Consider leaving the glove box and/or centre console open. This proves to thieves there is nothing worth taking.
13. Beware blood alcohol levels the-morning-after-the-night-before. Does your work depend on your licence?
14. Remember to take your parking ticket with you. This makes it difficult for the thief to steal your car.
15. Use a hands-free kit for your phone. Preferably, keep phone calls and messaging for later.
16. Check the Personal Property Security Register: www.ppsr.gov.au to see if a vehicle has an outstanding debt. (You can also check machinery, crops, livestock and accounts. It accesses the National Exchange of Vehicle & Driver Information System (NEDVIS)) See whether the car has been written-off, stolen, its make, model, colour etc.
17. Consider not including 'Home' in your GPS, but a non-existent address nearby. If your car is stolen and you have in it a garage door opener, the thief won't have easy access to your house.
18. Keep your car keys by your bed at night. The remote control can be used as a panic button in an emergency, setting off the car alarm. Don't be tempted to leave keys on the table by the front door, or on the kitchen counter.
19. Lock car doors when traveling at night. Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car is broken down. Instead, help by phoning the Police.
20. If you leave a key with a valet attendant or mechanic, leave only the ignition key.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799. Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

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