

STORAGE CAGES



1. Storage cages in the underground car parks under unit blocks are built to a budget, not necessarily to any degree of security. Beware weak hinges, frames and wire. Have a qualified trades person inspect the cage and suggest how best to improve the security. Ensure it cannot be accessed, forced open or climbed into.
2. Triple hinge the cage, with triple locking points.

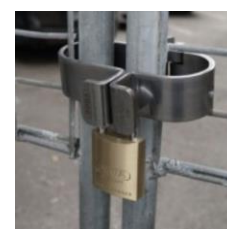
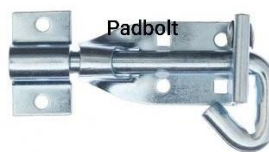
Padlock shackle protector



Hasp & Staple



Padbolt



3. Use a high-quality padlock on your storage cage and use it at all times. *"A lock is not a lock unless it is locked!"* Research the variety of secure locking devices available. You may as well not have a quality lock if it is not paired with a quality chain/locking device (eg padbolt, hasp & staple, etc). Cheap hardware can be cut and broken-off in seconds, with almost no noise. A padlock shackle (U-shaped loop of metal) protector helps protect it against bolt cutter attack.
4. Install good lighting.
5. If your cage does not reach to the ceiling, you have limited options:
 - a. Request strata permission to extend your cage to ceiling height.
 - b. Consider having a 'lid' made/attached/welded in place.
6. Ensure persons cannot see in/identify the contents:
 - a. Conceal property so it is not easily identifiable. Cover items inside the cage, for example with tarpaulin or old bed sheets.
 - b. Cover the view into the cage, eg large cardboard boxes propped inside the cage sides, or line cages with shade cloth (which allows air to circulate better than tarpaulin).
 - c. Avoid letting anyone know the contents of your cage.
 - d. Don't use boxes from valuable items to store junk (eg a PlayStation box with books inside).
7. Consider the use of tracker/tracer products such as AirTag, Tile, or tracking stickers, in order to track valuable belongings such as bikes, trailers, equipment, etc.
8. Secure items such as bikes to the inside of the cage with a secondary lock, so even after gaining access to the cage, criminals need to cut another lock to remove the bike.

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)

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TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)

1800 333 000

REPORT NON-EMERGENCY/POLICE TO ATTEND NON-URGENTLY (Police Assistance Line)

131 444

POLICE COMMUNITY PORTAL (Online reporting of minor crime/lost property)

portal.police.nsw.gov.au

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)

9476 9799

TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP

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SPEAK AND LISTEN

1 800 555 727

ENGLISH

9. Don't store valuable goods in these cages. Consider re-locating expensive items from your storage cage to inside your apartment eg high-end bikes, surfboards, expensive accessories, alcohol, etc. Remove any valuable accessories (lights, speedometer, etc).
10. Install CCTV surveillance to view your cage, regardless of whether there are any in the underground car park. The car park should already have entrance and exit points (including fire exits) covered with CCTV cameras in suitable locations to positively identify an individual from recorded images. CCTV footage should be kept for a minimum of 14 days. Ask your Body Corporate if there are procedures in place to ensure that the recording system is checked regularly to confirm camera operation and quality of recording.
11. Install signage which states the area is under constant CCTV surveillance and that no valuables are stored in the storage cages.
12. Take photographs and record serial numbers of items such as bikes, power tools, equipment, etc. and keep this record off-site. Note any identifying features such as scratches or marks.
13. Mark your Drivers Licence number on valuables, either with an engraver, or an ultraviolet pen. Engravers/UV pens/black light torches are available to borrow from Neighbourhood Watch (see our 'Borrow' webpage).

NOTE: This not only identifies your property for possible return, but can also tie an offender to a 'Break & Enter' address, allowing for a better chance of conviction.

14. Don't let people tailgate (follow) you into the underground car park. Reduce the chances of 'tailgating' by waiting until the doors/gates to your car park close completely after you, before moving further within.
15. Do not allow any unauthorised entry to the building. Police urge people not to approach anyone suspicious in their garage, but to call police. Know your neighbours – who should be there? Who should not? If in doubt, double-check with others in the building.
16. Securing the building and garages is top priority. External doors should be self-closing and always locked. Residents are advised to report faulty door-closers or latches. Don't prop doors open. Ensure all doors close and lock securely.
17. Consider a Neighbourhood Watch 'eWatch' for your building, ie residents connected via email, a Facebook group, WhatsApp group, or similar.
18. Ask your Body Corporate to request a Security Audit of all the building (including storage 'cages') from your Crime Prevention Officer. View the current advice from the police.
19. Ask your Body Corporate to ensure any windows in the garages and storage areas are fitted with quality lock sets.
20. Be a good neighbour – keep watch for any suspicious activity, and report any suspicious activity and incidents as soon as possible to the police.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & 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 Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: <https://au-nhwkuringgaihornsby.org/>.

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

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly Twitter) or at our [website](#). Contact us at: NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com.