

STOP THE MOST COMMON METHOD OF CAR THEFTS!



Although the numbers of car thefts have been decreasing over the years, in 2011 **3 out of 4** car theft claims¹ have involved **keys being stolen** directly from the **owner's home**.

Just imagine waking in the middle of the night to the sound of thieves **stealing your pride and joy** from your garage or waking up in the morning only to discover that your garage door is wide open and your brand new, **prestige motor vehicle has disappeared**.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT CAR THEFTS

1 The modern car security system is getting smarter... and so is the modern thief

As you probably know hot wiring a car by twisting wires together and driving away is a thing of the past. The modern car security systems are difficult, if not impossible, to bypass easily, especially in high value vehicles, so thieves are resorting to smarter methods to steal your car. Nowadays thieves will target the one thing that can easily bypass your car's security... your keys.

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council estimates thieves accessing the car keys are used in more than 70% of thefts.

2 Thieves steal your car by getting access to your car keys

The common methods of obtaining the car keys are during private or commercial building burglaries, or at recreational areas such as gyms, beaches and swimming pools. However, in many recent car theft cases thieves have targeted homes. The thieves have broken in to houses or gained entry through unlocked doors or windows, located the keys and simply driven off out the garage.

3 Home car thefts are on the rise

This type of theft is now prevalent in NSW, whereas it was more common in QLD and VIC in previous years. New figures show that about 42%² of cars stolen in NSW are taken from homes and the figure has risen by 7% in the past five years³. Most thieves are opportunistic, so make sure your home isn't their golden ticket.

“70% of car thefts involves the owner's car keys”

Please see next page for more...



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WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT THESE COMMON CAR THEFT METHODS?

1

Don't leave your car keys visible through windows or doors

If thieves can see your keys unattended, there's more incentive for them to do whatever it takes to get hold of them.

2

Don't leave your car keys lying around in obvious places

Do you leave your keys on the kitchen bench, desks or key hooks? If a thief can gain entry into your home, it is likely they will find the keys. Keep keys hidden in the house, such as in your bedroom or better still, in a safe.

3

Don't leave your car keys in close proximity to your vehicle or in the ignition

Modern technology allows some cars to be started without having to put the keys into ignition. As long as the key is within range of the car, it can be started by a push of a button inside the vehicle.

**It's true that
"prevention is better
than cure".**

Don't let car thefts happen to you – be smart, and be careful with your car keys.

Dawes Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd t/a Dawes Motor Insurance ABN 18 050 289 506 AR 342982
Underwritten by Calliden Insurance Limited ABN 43 110 186 224 AFSL 284889

Source:

¹ Claims Report, Dawes Motor Insurance

² Jim O'Rourke, June 2011, *To keep your car, hide the keys*, Sydney Morning Herald

³ Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2010



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