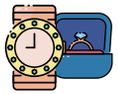
## What are some safe car-habits you can adopt?



Remember to physically check that your car is locked before you step away.



Never leave valuables in your car. Leaving valuables in your car is not worth the time, cost, and effort of replacing them.



Remove any documents that could lead to a risk of identity theft.



Where possible, park in well-lit areas to reduce concealment opportunities.



Ensure you close your car windows every time your car is parked.



Report thefts of and from motor vehicles to the Police Assistance line on 131 444.

In an emergency, always call Triple Zero on 000.

If you have witnessed or know something about theft report to Crime Stoppers.

# Helping to keep the community safe together



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# Protect your valuables while you shop

## Safeguarding against theft from your car





In Australia, theft from motor vehicles increased by over **12%** in 2023 compared to 2022, rising from around **48,000** to **54,000** incidents

## Understanding theft from cars

Coles and Crime Stoppers have partnered to help prevent the community from falling victim to theft from cars. This type of crime typically involves smashing windows, forcing open doors, or exploiting unlocked vehicles to access valuables left inside. It is important to note that theft from cars can occur in various locations, ranging from carparks to residential areas, particularly at night.

## Commonly stolen items

Thieves typically target items of value that are easily accessible and visible within vehicles. Common items stolen from cars include:

- Electronic devices such as smartphones, laptops, tablets, and GPS systems.
- Personal belongings such as purses, wallets, handbags, and backpacks.
- Cash and coins left in plain sight.
- Valuables such as jewelry, sunglasses, and designer accessories.
- Tools and equipment, especially those visible in commercial vehicles.

Even seemingly insignificant items can attract thieves, so it is advisable to remove all valuables from your car or secure them out of sight.

## Shopping centre carpark risks

Carparks at shopping centres are prime targets for theft from cars due to several factors:

- **High Volume:** The constant flow of vehicles in and out of shopping centres provides cover for thieves to blend in and go unnoticed.
- **Transient Nature:** Shoppers often leave their vehicles unattended for extended periods, creating opportunities for theft.
- **Visibility and Accessibility:** The sprawling layout of shopping centre carparks makes it difficult for individuals to keep a close watch on their vehicles, allowing thieves to operate discreetly.

