

RAC in your community

For over 100 years, the RAC has been looking out for the safety of our members in their homes, their cars and in the community.

We not only provide our members with information, we also lobby governments for legislative and policy changes.

Over the past few years this has included:

- Continuing to lobby for government burglary reduction programs, such as *Burglar Beware*, to be extended into the South and South East Metropolitan areas as well as the major regional centres of Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie.
- Pushing for a State strategy on *Designing Out Crime* initiatives to be adopted.
- Asking for a \$2 million *Designing Out Crime* fund to allow local communities to develop and implement local *Designing Out Crime* solutions.
- Urging government for a concerted effort to understand the phenomenon of road rage in WA and develop ways for it to be addressed.

To read more about RAC's involvement in community safety visit livesafe.rac.com.au

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Metropolitan Member Service Centres

- Booragoon:** Shop 312, Garden City Shopping Centre, Riseley Street
- Carousel:** Shop 1098, Westfield Carousel Shopping Centre, Albany Highway
- Mandurah:** Shop 112, Centro Mandurah Shopping Centre, Pinjarra Road
- Morley:** Shop 1, Morley Market Shopping Centre, Bishop Street
- West Perth:** 832 Wellington Street
- Whitfords:** Shop 15, Westfield Whitford City Shopping Centre, Corner Marmion & Whitfords Avenue

Regional Member Service Centres

- Albany:** 110 Albany Highway
- Bunbury:** Shop 20a, Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre, Sandridge Road
- Geraldton:** Shop 29, Centro Northgate Shopping Centre, Chapman Road
- Kalgoorlie:** 51-53 Hannan Street

Contact us

General Enquiries 13 17 03
Roadside Assistance 13 11 11
Community Safety livesafe@rac.com.au
Community Ed communityeducation@rac.com.au
www.rac.com.au
www.livesafe.rac.com.au

TTY (numbers for the hearing impaired)

All General Enquiries 9301 3113
Roadside Assistance 9303 8470 (24 hours, 7 days)
Roadside Assistance SMS number 0434 182 877



COMMUNITY ED
RAC members are happier



COMMUNITY ED



Keeping your car safe.

Did you know?

The rate of car theft in WA is one of the lowest in Australia. This is mainly thanks to the compulsory immobiliser scheme which remains the benchmark by which other states have developed their own strategies to combat car theft.

Find a safe parking spot

The RAC believes there are many ways vehicle theft can be addressed. One of the most effective things you can do (aside from rolling up your windows and locking your doors) is park your car in a safe place. The safest parking spots, outside of your garage or car-port, are ones that can be easily seen by passers-by.

Research from the United Kingdom indicates that it is safer to park your car in a multi-level carpark than a single level 'lot' type carpark. Multi-level carparks restrict the number of entrance and exit points thereby increasing the probability of a potential thief being seen.

This is one of the main reasons the RAC is an advocate for *Designing Out Crime* - if someone is more likely to be seen, they are less likely to do something they shouldn't. *Designing Out Crime* is a crime prevention strategy which changes the physical landscape of an area to increase surveillance by residents and passers-by. For example, this can be done through the management of traffic patterns in order to moderate car related crimes.

When at home, the safest place to park your car is in a garage or carport. If not, ensure your car is parked in a secure, well-lit area.

How to protect what's in your car

Car thieves don't always steal cars, sometimes they just steal items in your car, such as CDs, loose change and stereos.

- As always, park in an area which is not dark or isolated so any potential thief is likely to be seen by passers-by.
- Always ensure your windows are wound up and all doors are locked.

- Never leave valuables in your car – especially in full view.
- If your car stereo has a detachable face, remove it and take it with you when you leave.
- If you must leave valuables in your car, move them into the boot before you have reached your destination - thieves have been known to target vehicles by watching people move valuables to their boot.

While in your car

Carjacking or being robbed whilst in your car is a frightening occurrence which thankfully does not happen all that often. However, some simple steps to keep you safe include:

- Always keep your windows wound up and your doors locked.
- When stationary at lights, leave a big enough gap between you and the car in front so you can drive off quickly if you need to.
- If involved in a traffic accident and you feel unsafe getting out, exchange details through a small gap in the window.
- But most importantly, if someone tries to get into your car, get out – quickly! Your life is more valuable than your car.

For more information on car theft simply visit www.livesafe.rac.com.au

Road rage

Incidents of drivers becoming aggressive towards other road users are on the increase. Here are some helpful hints to avoid road rage:

- Do not confront or retaliate against someone who is driving erratically.
- Travel a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.
- Avoid driving in dangerous or overly congested road conditions.
- Avoid driving stressed, angry, tired or unwell.
- Plan ahead and allow extra time for delays.

- Remember that everyone makes mistakes and there are more important things to worry about than relatively minor traffic infringements.
- If you feel you are being followed or are a victim of road rage, pull over and call the police.

More helpful hints:

- Never leave a second set of keys in your car.
- Never leave your car keys in a highly visible area within your home.
- Never start your car and then leave it unattended - even just for a minute.
- Thieves target cars at night so ensure that you park your car in a secure well-lit area.
- If you have off-street parking always use it - it will reduce the chances of your car getting stolen by up to 50%.
- Have an immobiliser or alarm fitted and make sure it is working properly.
- If you have security devices such as a steering wheel lock, use them as well as your immobiliser.
- Never attach a name tag with your address or car registration to your keys.

Community Education

The RAC has a variety of free information sessions available to all members of the community. These include everything from getting your driver's licence to road and personal safety. If you belong to a seniors group, social club or school and would benefit from one of our presentations, contact our Community Ed team on 9436 4471 to find out more.

