

EMAIL FROM WEST END POLICE

Storage cages targeted, South Brisbane & West End

Storage Cages are still being heavily targeted in the South Brisbane and West End area by opportunistic offenders.

In the month of September we have seen an increase in the number of secure cages broken into with the wire being cut or padlocks being removed.

It is important that we all make a collaborative effort to implement better security habits and reduce incentives for offenders.

Police need residents to be alert and to secure their units, storage areas and vehicles.

Can I ask for you to have a check of your cages asap.

Can I also ask you to send either an email around or a comment on any residential Facebook site informing residents of this increased criminal activity and have residents report via Police link any breaks that may have occurred.



Here are some tips:

- Covering the cages so no one can see what is behind the fence/gate/cage – either a cladding or tarp material. This might deter an offender from simply going on a ‘fishing expedition’, as opposed to noticing tools, bikes etc and targeting a particular cage when an opportunity presents.
- Check garage doors close completely so potential offenders can’t sneak in.
- Don’t allow unauthorised visitors access to the building.
- Watch for offenders attempting to sneak into underground car-parks behind residents driving in.
- Keep items of value out of view.
- Use quality locks on cages and place security locks or devices on items of value within the cage.
- Don’t prop open communal doors including fire exits.
- Keep your balcony screens locked at all times, including night-time.

With this issue increasing over the last couple of weeks and with the weather becoming warmer it’s important to make a concerted effort to not only protect your own possessions but those of your neighbours as well.

Bicycles and tools are the most commonly stolen items by thieves who sneak into South Brisbane and West End underground car parks, usually when the security gates are triggered by a resident to drive in or out.

The key way to avoid becoming a victim of this type of theft, and to protect your fellow residents, is to be more aware when driving in or out of apartment car parks and not to let others tailgate through a secure gate.

Police suggest residents wait for the security gate to close completely before driving on, and to watch out for suspicious people lurking near a secure gate, door, elevator or stairway.

opportunistic thieves generally target security cages within the complexes but also will break into cars and steal any items of value and portability.

Police have increased patrols in the targeted areas and crime prevention activities are also occurring in these effected areas.

If you have information for police, contact [Policelink](#) by providing information using the [online suspicious activity form](#) 24hrs per day at www.police.qld.gov.au/reporting.

FYI - Some security measures you can take:

Motorcycles

- Use added security devices (such as disc locks) in combination with an ignition or steering locks. Ignition and steering locks on their own are not a deterrent from theft.
- If possible, secure your motorcycle to a solid fixed point with a strong thick chain and lock (keep the chain off the ground to make it harder to cut)
- Install an alarm or other anti-theft/immobiliser device
- Keep your keys on you at all times and hide from sight at home
- Use microdot technology on all parts of your motorcycle for identification
- Remove any accessories such as jackets and helmets

Vehicles

- Always lock your car, including the boot
- Make use of security devices such as steering wheel locks and similar devices to deter/hinder the offender's efforts.
- Remove all valuables from sight (loose change, electronic devices, sunglasses, wallets/purses, GPS etc.)
- Consider installing an electronic engine immobiliser and car alarm
- Keep your vehicle keys with you and hidden from sight at home
- Consider securing your registration plates with tamper resistant one-way screws so that if your vehicle is stolen, it becomes slightly more difficult for the offenders to disguise your vehicle

Bicycles

- Consider investing in a hardened steel lock which will generally thwart bolt cutters and always fix the lock to an immovable object or store in a secure storage space
- Take photographs of your bicycle to assist police should it go missing
- Record the serial number of your bicycle and keep it in a safe place
- Consider using more than one security method

Property

- If available, utilise storage cages to secure all property. Ensure adequate locks are used to secure the cage.
- Mark all property and record any serial numbers.
- Conceal property (cover/tarp) so it is not easily identifiable.

Regards



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