

WATCH OUT FOR DEVIOS PLOYS

No 20 in a Series of Security Tips

GRIFFITHSREID

PROVIDING INTELLIGENT SECURITY SOLUTIONS

DON'T LET CRIMINALS DISTRACT YOU!

Community policing forums and criminal specialists are warning that hijackers and burglars are going to great lengths to lure their victims to where they can get at them. They apply virtually any trick to distract their intended victims on order to overpower and rob them. Criminals had adopted a number of methods over the years to do this, including making a noise or burning something on the property.

If you hear your outside taps running in the middle of the night, do not go outside your home. Criminals turning on the taps made a comeback after using it in at least 30 housebreaking cases. People, on hearing the running water, go outside to investigate and are overpowered by armed robbers.

If a piece of paper is stuck on the rear window of your vehicle, do not get out to remove it. Drivers seldom switch off their car and lock their doors when they jump out to quickly remove the paper. Once they are at the back of the car, thieves slip into the car and drive off. The driver usually has no chance of stopping them.

Car thieves will wait for a woman to park and while she is away, deflate one or more of her car tyres. Helpless and at a momentary loss of control, the woman would gladly accept offers of help from the gang—only to see them drive off a short while later.

Women usually loose their handbags and almost every driver's laptops and other valuables disappear with the car.

And if you notice anything suspicious outside your home which could act as a marker for criminals, get rid of it. Erase crayon signs on gates and remove cold drink tins on pavements or bottles at the gate.

Another tactic involves cable-tying electronic gates so that when a driver cannot open the gate with the remote, he would get out to see what was wrong and would then be hijacked.

Solid Advice to Remember:

- **Rather be safe than sorry. Do not allow yourself to be distracted—ever! That will be when the criminals overpower you.**
- **Make a habit of checking your vulnerability at home or in the car and plan possible counter measures to avoid being attacked or hijacked.**
- **If you see a piece of paper stuck to your back window, just drive away! Remove the paper later.**
- **Any other attempt at distraction need the same treatment and when you do get out where it is safe, switch off and lock the car before doing anything else.**
- **If your gate does not open, drive away and phone your security company or get help.**

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