Ultimate guide to the outdoors on the Coast





# **Keeping Your Caravan Secure**

What could be worse than being away on a family holiday and having something pinched from your caravan or worse the caravan pinched? It does happen. Caravans are mostly an easy target for would-be thieves. But with simple steps and inexpensive security products, you can protect your caravan, valuable items and your family holiday.

## **Coupling Lock**

A coupling lock has two uses. Firstly, you can use it to lock the caravan to your car if you are leaving the car and caravan parked somewhere. Secondly it can be used when the caravan isn't hitched to the car by inserting it into your caravan's coupling and is locked in place with a key preventing the caravan from being hooked up to the tow bar of a thief's vehicle.

#### Wheel Clamp/Lock

One of the best ways to deter thieves is by using a wheel clamp (also known as a wheel lock). A wheel clamp locks onto the caravan's wheel preventing it from moving. The top range products are built with composite metals, resistant to cutting, drilling and gas freezing. The time and effort required to remove a wheel clamp should be enough to deter even the most brazen of thieves.

# **Security Post**

Security posts are a popular item for the security of caravans when parked at home. A security post is an extra piece of equipment separate from the caravan to deter thieves. It is usually placed in the driveway or in the path of the caravan's exit and a key is required to remove the post.

#### Storage

Whether you're going to keep your caravan at home or in storage facility check the security of the location. If storing in an offsite storage facility be sure to ask about surveillance, security measures and don't be afraid to ask about any previous issues with caravan break-ins.

#### **GPS Tracking**

Ah, technology is incredible isn't it? This one is as simple as hiding a small GPS tracker inside your caravan. If it is stolen, you and the police can easily track the caravan's location and hopefully get it back quickly.

#### Lock up

If you're going to leave your caravan, even for a few minutes, make sure it is locked. Thieves are opportunists, and it can only take a matter of minutes for them to get away with your valuable items. If leaving the caravan site, lock up equipment such as portable fridges, BBQ's or portable solar panels inside the van, not just in the zipped

# **Location Location**

Be mindful of your caravan's security when picking a camp spot in a caravan park. Park in sight of other caravans and campers and away from the exit if possible. Again, deterrence is

# **Keep Valuables Out Of Sight**

Not all thieves are after the caravan. Many thieves will just be looking for the valuable contents inside your van. Keep them locked away and out of

#### **Security Camera**

A visible security camera on the outside or inside of the van can be an excellent way to deter thieves, whether it's real or not. We'd also recommend getting stickers stating that cameras have been installed on the caravan.

#### **Alarm System**

An alarm system for your caravan is much the same as one for your car. It could be setup so if the door is opened it goes off or it could be set to go off if motion is detected. These deafening alarms are sure to startle any intruder and alert anyone nearby that something is going on.

## **Automatic Lights**

Just like in your home, you can install a motion sensor light on the outside of your caravan. This will detect movement when someone approaches and automatically turn on. In many cases this is enough to startle any would be thieves and cause them to keep on walking. They are also handy for those midnight visits to the loo.

# Insurance

No matter what steps you take to ensure the security of your caravan be sure to check the fine details of your insurance policy. It's also a very good idea to insure the contents of your caravan too. Another tip is to take photos of the inside and outside of your caravan, especially any distinctive markings or paint work, prior to leaving on your

Brionhy De Vere

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