



# KEEPING VALUABLES SAFE



## WHILE AT THE BEACH OR POOL

Going to a beach or pool should be a relaxing experience, right? But unless the beach or pool you are at has lockers, there is always that worry about what to do with valuables such as car keys and mobile phones. The only certain way not to lose something to theft, is not to bring it in the first place, and that is not always possible.

The first thing you can do to protect your valuables is never to leave them unattended. Especially when you go into the water or doze off to catch a few winks. It's not a problem if you're with someone and that person is willing to stay in the sun while you are relaxing in the water, which isn't very likely. Perhaps try to go into the water in shifts so someone is always watching the valuables.

What else can you do?

**A MESSAGE FROM NSW POLICE FORCE**



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## WHILE AT THE BEACH OR POOL

### COME PREPARED

- Buy shorts with **waterproof pockets** (if your key is electronic – or that have pockets with regular zippers if it's a regular key). That way you will be free to take your key to the water with you.
- Store small, necessary items like your car key, spare cash and credit cards and even your phone or tablet inside a **waterproof pouch** you can carry on your person. Yes, you can go into the water with your phone on your person. Make sure your waterproof pouch is secured to your body as closely as possible so that a wave doesn't pull it off. Waterproof waist pouches are better than waterproof neck pouches in the ocean as neck pouches are more apt to float off your body especially if you get hit by a wave.
- Use a **portable locking safe** or similar. Certain bags can be secured to a stationary item like a chair or umbrella, or another immovable object.
- Get a pair of **water shoes** with tiny zippered pockets. The pockets are just big enough for a key and are hidden in the tip of the shoe so they won't hurt your feet.
- Buy a **magnetic key holder** and put it on your car. The best places for this are usually in the wheel well or up under the lip of a chassis. You should clean that spot when you first put it on.

### OTHER TIPS FOR GUARDING YOUR POSSESSIONS AT THE BEACH (OR POOL)?

- When possible set your towel down in front of a **lifeguard** tower or in the line of site of a lifeguard. The hope is that thieves won't want to operate near someone who might catch them in the act of stealing while you are in the water.  
The logic extends to other people. While you might be at the beach for some peace and quiet, if you are visible to a good number of people then thieves might not want to risk making a move. The centre of a more populated area rather than its edges will be safest.
- **Don't advertise your things** – if you must leave your valuables, at least, tuck them under a beach towel. If the item is larger, dig down a little in the sand so the towel remains flat when placed over it. If you have electronics place them in a large zip-lock style bag and bury it, then cover with a beach towel. The bag protects the electronics from the sand. If you do this, make sure the bag is completely sealed



**Triple Zero (000)**

For emergencies or life threatening situations.



**Police Assistance Line (131 444)**

For non emergencies.



**Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)**

To provide crime information. It can be in confidence.

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