

SMASH AND GRAB RAIDS ON VEHICLES OCCUR 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, ANYWHERE, ANY TIME.

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WHAT IS SMASH AND GRAB?

A smash and grab usually has the element of speed and surprise – the violent smashing of the window on the passenger side causes the motorist to freeze for a few seconds – just enough time for the thief to get hold of the valuables on the car seat and flee the scene!



Items targeted

The thieves are usually after valuables easily visible from outside the vehicle and easily sold once grabbed. Items targeted include:

- Purses, handbags and wallets
- Shopping bags
- Loose change and CDs
- Laptop bags, briefcases and backpacks
- Cellphones, MP3 players and tablets
- Keys etc.

Who are most vulnerable?

- The victims are most often single drivers who leave their belongings on the passenger seat.
- Criminals tend to focus on female drivers, thinking that they are less likely to chase after them.
- Drivers who are distracted are most vulnerable – those busy on a cellphone or with a cigarette in the hand.
- Vehicles left unattended away from the crowds and with valuables visible inside are easy targets for a quick smash and grab.

Methods used

- Criminals focus on those areas where traffic is often congested and where vehicles remain stationary for a while.
- These criminals often work in pairs with one posing as a vendor, distracting the driver while the other smashes the passenger window and grabs the valuables.
- Objects are sometimes placed in the road and motorists make the mistake of getting out of their vehicles to remove these objects. This is when vehicles are easily targeted.
- Criminals also use cellphones to identify potential victims from a bridge or elevated position and to relay this information to their partners in crime further along the road.
- The person doing the smash and grab will generally select an area where he could make a fast getaway and pursuit would be difficult.

IT HAPPENS IN SECONDS.



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