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Stolen motorcycles may not be seen again

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Victorian motorcycle owners who value their wheels should guard them carefully with new figures revealing less than one in five will be recovered if stolen.

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council figures show that of all motorcycles stolen between September 2006 and August 2007, just 19.6 per cent were found by police.

Of 1,380 bikes stolen, just 271 were recovered.

Victoria Police warned motorcycle owners to keep their bikes secure both at home and when they are out.

"We are finding that people might be conscious of locking up their motorcycle out in a public place, but they don't take the same degree of care when they are at home or another residential property," said Detective Senior Constable Brett Florence of the Organised Motor Vehicle Theft Squad.

"It's quite common for people to simply leave their motorcycle unsecured, unattended and in clear view outside a house or in a driveway, and this is when theft can and does occur.

"Most thieves are simply opportunistic and I would urge motorcycle owners not to provide this chance to them.

"It is essential that motorcycle owners keep thorough and up-to-date records on their bike, so that if the vehicle is stolen, information can immediately be provided to police to assist in recovery," Det Snr Const Florence said.

Registration details, the engine number and other identifying features should be recorded, he said.

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