

Clippings are brief summaries of recent news stories in the consumer media. They offer insights to the latest trends and issues for the door business.

Thief's Prized Item: GDO Remote

Source: Janet Kwak and Julie Brayton, "Police Warn Residents to Take Garage Door Remotes Inside," NBC 4 Los Angeles, Feb. 1, 2013.

This thief is after one valuable item: the remote control for the garage door. As reported on NBC 4 Los Angeles, police are warning residents in the San Fernando Valley of a thief who steals GDO remotes so he can return later and gain easy access into homes.

In one case, the thief used a block to break the car window and take only the remote. Police believe the same man broke into other cars and homes in Encino. Most of the burglaries happened in the morning.

Police are urging homeowners to hide or remove remotes from their cars when they park on the street.

Editor's Note: If a car is parked outside, the vulnerable remote control is essentially a key to the house. We recommend that dealers inform their customers of the danger and offer mini-keychain transmitters as a potential solution.

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GDO Remotes Used in String of St. Louis Burglaries

Source: KMOV.com Staff, "Police: Burglars using garage door openers to enter St. Charles home," KMOV-TV, St. Louis, Jan. 31, 2013.

At least four times in two weeks, suspects used stolen GDO remote controls to get into homes in the St. Charles suburb of St. Louis.

In one case, the burglar walked through the first floor of the house as several family members were asleep. The burglar took a handgun, an iPad, a PlayStation 3, and a wallet. The burglar gained access by using a remote taken from an unlocked car.

Police encouraged homeowners to lock car doors, bring the remote inside, and make sure the door is locked between the garage and the home.

Editor's Note: These "thefts by remote" continue throughout the country. Door dealers can be heroes to their customers

by warning them of the danger of remote controls in unlocked or unsecured cars.

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