



## Quick thinking snares building-site thieves

Quick thinking helped catch two building-site thieves recently, according to the Housing Industry Association's latest Name and Shame newsletter.

The witnesses who helped to apprehend them received cash rewards of \$300.

One thief stole ceramic floor tiles from a building site, only to realise his getaway car, a four-wheel-drive, was bogged.

When tradesmen turned up for work at the site, they didn't realise he'd been stealing and helped get his bogged car out.

Later, after discovering a big quantity of tiles missing, they called Name and Shame campaign investigators and passed on details about the suspect. He was later charged and found guilty of stealing and fined \$1000 plus \$1680 in costs.

The other was a bike-riding pilferer who stole timber from a work site, unaware he

was being watched by a member of the public. The witness followed him home then called the police and campaign investigators to give them the address. After being charged with stealing, he was found guilty and fined \$2000 plus \$60 in costs.

Last month, building materials and fixtures valued at more than \$120,000 were stolen from building sites in the metropolitan area. Items included glass panels, doors, door frames, cement and timber, with the worst-hit areas Byford, Ellenbrook, Beeliar and Butler.

**Beth Muhling**

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**Anyone who wants to report a theft or suspicious behaviour on a building site can phone 1300 273 9 273, or after hours, Meridian Security Service on 0418 906 060.**