

DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM



of a theft from your vehicle. There are things you can do to help yourself avoid being a victim of theft.

Bad guys are looking for simple targets.

It doesn't matter what's in your car-if it's valuable or not valuable. If bad guys can see it, they're going to take it and think about it later. The bad guys will break your windows almost as easy as if opening an un-locked vehicle. A person should hide their items every time.

Deterring theft from auto, like all crime prevention, involves limiting the criminal's ability and/or opportunity to commit the crime. With very little time and effort, you can make a huge difference in your vulnerability from a theft.

Don't be a victim. It takes 30 seconds for a thief to break into your car and steal your valuables.

It takes 20 seconds for you to move your valuables into your trunk where they are out of sight. Better yet, take them with you. **Don't leave valuables in your car.**

Mark your valuables. Inscribe/engrave a "personal identifier" on all valuables. In case they are stolen, they will be easier to recover.

The very best prevention is people looking after themselves.

THEFT FROM VEHICLE TIPS

Lock your vehicle doors and windows.

Even if you are gone for 5 minutes. It takes only 30 seconds for a thief to break into your car and steal your valuables.

Remove all items from the inside of the car.

If you must leave valuable items in your car, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for "trunk-packing", and can break into your car the minute you're out of sight.

Park in well-lit, well-traveled areas. This helps deter thieves by being more visible. Thieves prefer breaking into cars where they will not be observed or attract notice, and choose their targets accordingly.

Park your vehicle in the garage if you have one. The last thing you need is to find your vehicle's window broken or items missing.

Set any alarm or anti-theft device. If you have one, use it! They can be an effective deterrent to an auto-burglar, who most often chooses the easiest target.

Don't use "hide-a-keys". Thieves know the best places to hide those.

**Do NOT confront anyone.
Your life is precious.
Property can be replaced**

**Be ALERT, be AWARE,
and be prepared to
be a GOOD WITNESS.**

TWO SLOGANS ONE GOAL

**LOCK IT or
LOSE IT**

is a slogan that helps remind residents to take the extra step to lock their homes, bicycles & vehicles whether you are at home or not.



HELP PREVENT

Burglary
Vehicle Theft
Bicycle Theft
Theft from garages
Theft from lockers

CRIME PREVENTION is Everyone's Business



**LEAVE IT,
and
LOSE IT**

is a slogan that helps to remind residents not to leave valuables in a vehicle.

HELP PREVENT
Theft from vehicles



is a program intended to remind residents that many property crimes can be prevented

by simply locking home doors, garage doors, windows, and vehicle doors.

A recent study of property crimes, including home and vehicle burglaries, showed nearly half of the events involved unlocked doors or car drivers who left valuables in plain view without locking their doors. These types of crimes take only seconds or minutes for the thief to commit, and are very difficult for officers to catch in progress.

Many of these crimes, and the resulting losses to the victims, can be prevented with some simple, common sense actions on the part of all of us.

Take just a couple extra minutes each day to ensure that you are not 'inviting' criminals onto your property. The majority of theft crimes are crimes of opportunity, meaning a victim left property easily available for the thief. Suspects may go out for a walk or ride a bike to identify potential targets, then return later to steal the property.

When citizens secure their property and take basic crime prevention steps, there is a tremendous effect on reducing crime in an area.

A consistent message we give to residents and neighborhood associations is to take proper crime prevention steps and look out for each other. By getting to know each other, it becomes easier to identify people who are out of place in your neighborhood. A little added attention to these people usually encourages them to leave the area because the theft targets become more difficult.

**YOU ARE THE KEY
TO HELP COMBAT CRIME.**

TIPS TO HELP PREVENT BURGLARY

- **Lock all cars**, whether in your garage, on your driveway, or on the street. If you must leave your car in the driveway or street, ALWAYS take the garage door opener out. This little device is the key to your home; do not give it to the criminal.
- **Always leave your garage door closed and locked**, even if you are home. Criminals have no problem going into your open garage, even if they know you are home. An open garage door is an invitation to a thief to take anything in sight.
- **Keep windows & doors closed and locked at night**. Many criminals will not put enough effort into their crime to break a lock or a window. They often prefer the path of least resistance. If your doors or windows are unlocked and they can easily get inside, they will. If they can't, they'll move on to another house.
- **Call 9-1-1**. If you are woken up by something in the middle of the night and may be the witness to one of these crimes, call 9-1-1. Trust your instincts. Take charge of your neighborhood, report it right away.
- **Be a good witness**. Do not get physically involved; the sooner you call police, the quicker they'll get there.
- **Don't leave valuable items outside**. Securely store bikes, skateboards, bats, balls, etc.
- **Get to know your neighbors**. Join your neighborhood association.
- **Report suspicious activity** to police immediately.

TIPS TO HELP PREVENT AUTO THEFT

The best prevention against auto theft is making your vehicle harder to steal! Thieves will move on to an easier target

- **Always take your keys**. Many auto thefts involve victims leaving their keys in the car, sometimes leaving cars idling to warm up in the winter, and suspects taking the car for temporary transportation.
- **Be wary of anyone who seems to be suspicious**. Not every thief working a parking lot is easily spotted.
- **Always secure your car doors** when parking your vehicle, even for just a few minutes. It takes just a matter of seconds to enter an unsecured vehicle.
- **Use a visible or audible warning device**.
- **Close all windows**
- **Never hide a second set of keys** anywhere in your car.
- **Etch the vehicle windows** with your VIN number.

TIPS TO HELP PREVENT BICYCLE THEFT

- **Place bikes in a locked garage or shed** at night.
- **Always lock your bike**. For the greatest theft deterrence, use two locks such as a U-lock and a locking cable. The longer it takes a thief to get through your bike security, the less likely your bike will be stolen.
- **Register your bike**. Check out The National Bike Registry at www.nationalbikeregistry.com.

