

Auto Theft Prevention

Taking precautionary and target hardening measures can reduce your chances of becoming the victim of an auto theft. The listed tips below can help make your vehicle an unappealing target for auto thieves.

Precautions

- Always roll up your windows, lock the doors and take your key, even if you will only be away for a short time.
- Never leave your car running unattended.
- Park your vehicle in a visible area with good lighting.
- Never leave a second set of keys hidden inside or attached to your vehicle.
- Park in attended lots, when possible, providing more potential for witnesses.
- If you have a garage use, as an alternative park in your driveway.
- Lock the garage door and your vehicle.
- Do not leave the title inside the vehicle.

Devices

- **Kill Switch** – Interrupts the electrical, fuel or ignition system.
- **Steering Wheel Lock** – Prevent the steering wheel from being turned more than a few degrees; visible from outside the vehicle.
- **Collar** – Prevent the steering column from being stripped.
- **Brake Lock** – Prevent the brake from being engaged to remove the transmission from Park.
- **Etching** – Etching the VIN number on the vehicle's glass can make it less valuable to thieves.

The majority of auto thefts take place night or in the early morning hours, and over half occur in residential areas including apartment complexes.

Auto Burglary Prevention

Auto burglary is a crime of opportunity; vehicles are easy targets and often contain property that is attractive to thieves. Large parking lots and neighborhoods with a lot of on-street parking can be prime targets for theft. Use the easy, inexpensive tips below to reduce your risk.

Precautions

- Leave nothing in plain-view inside your vehicle.
- Park in visible, well-lit areas.
- Roll up windows and lock doors.
- Place items in your trunk before reaching your destination.
- Secure the trunk, hatches, bed-mounting tool boxes and canopies.

Remove These Items

- Garage door openers
- Electronic items (laptops, cell phones)
- Luggage/bags
- Financial documents/instruments
- Cash
- Firearms
- Mail
- Wallets/Purses

