

Auto Theft

Stolen cars, vans, trucks and motorcycles cause economic hardship for victims, increase everyone's insurance premiums, and may be used to commit other, violent crimes.

Everyday, cars and trucks are stolen from malls, streets, driveways, parking lots and garages, and car dealerships. Vehicle theft can happen any place and at anytime.

A few common sense steps can help you avoid being a victim of the nation's fastest growing property crime.

- Never leave your car running unattended.
- Never leave your keys in the car or ignition.
- Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home.
- **Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked** this is the number one reason cars are broken into. Put them in the trunk out of sight.
- Always park in busy, well-lighted areas whenever possible.
- Install a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. These devices are commonly referred to as clubs, collars, or J-bars, and may serve as a deterrent if installed properly.
- Investigate the purchase of an auto security system if you live in a high-theft area or drive a theft-prone vehicle.
- Always leave just the ignition key with the attendant, if you park in a commercial garage or lot. Make sure no identifying information is attached. Do the same when you take your car for repairs.
- Carry your registration and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle.
- Copy your license plate and vehicle identification (VIN) numbers on a card and keep them with your driver's license. If your vehicle is stolen, police will need this information promptly.