

Prevent Car Thefts and Burglaries



Car thefts and burglaries can be prevented, but are very difficult to solve. Very little physical evidence is left behind at the scene and most of the time there are no witnesses. Car burglaries are often a crime of opportunity. Follow these tips and you can minimize

- Close all windows, lock all doors, and take the keys with you. Do not hide keys in the vehicle.
- Never leave your vehicle running, even if you will only be gone for a minute, or warming it up in your driveway; vehicles are commonly stolen at convenience stores, gas stations, driveways, and ATMs.
- Park in well lit, visible areas
- Make sure the exterior lighting on your residence is working properly
- Park in your garage when possible
- Disable your battery terminal or ignition fuse when parking your car for extended periods of time
- Do not become complacent because you drive an older-model vehicle. Older cars can be resold quickly or stripped for parts. A vehicle's parts are worth two to three times the value of the car.
- Always remove your valuables
- Leaving a purse on your car seat can turn a regular person into a car burglar

- Leaving GPS mounts, cell phone car-chargers, or satellite radio docking stations visible in the car will invite thieves to break your window.
 - Thieves assume that the electronic items themselves are probably in the car somewhere if the chargers are left plugged in.
 - Even worse is you may be left with a broken window even though you took your valuables with you.
 - Thieves are also known to target cars that have a suction cup mark on the inside of the windshield.
- A thief who breaks into your car for the GPS is also going to take:
 - Your Revo sunglasses from the glove box,
 - Your Ipod and cash from the center console,
 - Your keys if they're in there,
 - Papers with identifying information,
 - And worst of all, your garage door opener

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