



Tips to Prevent Thefts

Many property crimes can be prevented simply by 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 a few simple, common-sense actions.

Take a few minutes each day to ensure that you aren't inviting criminals onto your property. The majority of crimes are crimes of opportunity in which a victim leaves property unsecured, making it easily available for a thief to take. Thieves may go out for a walk or ride a bike in order to identify potential targets, then return later to steal the property. When residents secure their property and take basic crime prevention steps, there is a tremendous effect on reducing crime in the area.

Also, get to know your neighbors. By doing so, it becomes much 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 becomes more difficult.

Tips to Prevent Theft from vehicles

- **Lock your vehicle doors and windows**, even if you are only going to be gone for five minutes.
- **Remove all items from the inside of the car.** If you must leave valuables in your car, place them 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 because the car and anything inside is more visible. Thieves don't want to be observed or attract notice, so they choose their targets accordingly.
- **Park your vehicle in the garage** if you have one.
- **Set your alarm or anti-theft device**, as they can be an effective deterrent to an auto burglar. Remember – don't confront a criminal or suspicious person. Your life is precious. Property can be replaced, but your life cannot.

Be alert and be aware and if you see something, say something! Call 9-1-1.

Tips to Prevent Burglary

- **Lock your car**, whether in your garage, on your driveway or on the street.
- **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 at home. An open garage door is an invitation to a thief to take anything in sight.
- **Keep your doors locked**, even if you are home or out in the yard. Use security latches on first-floor windows so they cannot be fully opened to allow entry.
- **Don't leave valuable items outside**. Securely store bikes, skateboards, bats, balls, etc.
- **Get to know your neighbors**. Watch out for each other's safety and be vigilant about watching each other's home and property.
- Report suspicious activity to police immediately. **Remember if you see something, say something!**

Call 9-1-1.

Tips to Prevent Automobile 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 when letting it warm up in winter. Thieves may see this as an easy way to take the car for temporary transportation.
- **Always secure your car doors when parking your vehicle**.
- **Be familiar with the functions of your key fob**. The ability to flash the lights on your car or sound a horn alarm can be a powerful safety tool when retrieving your car in a parking lot.
- **Never hide a second set of keys anywhere in your car**.
- **Be wary of anyone who seems suspicious**. People loitering in parking lots or looking into cars should be reported to police. **Call 9-1-1 with a description of these suspicious people**.

Tips to Prevent Bicycle Theft

- Place bicycles in a locked garage or shed at night to ensure they will not be stolen by burglars looking for an easy target.
- 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.