



Auto Theft Prevention Tips

- 1. Do not leave or "hide" your car keys in or on your car.** Every day vehicles are stolen by criminals using a key that the victim left in the car. Suspects are very skillful at finding the hidden key. Often a suspect who breaks into a vehicle to steal items will find the key or a firearm and the result is more crimes.
- 2. Lock your vehicle and engage your alarm system.** When a car thief has to force entry by breaking a window, he/she takes more risks at getting caught. Alarms do deter some thieves and they will often just go to another unsecured or unprotected vehicle.
- 3. Secure your vehicle tag with one-way screws.** Many suspects steal a tag from one vehicle to put on a stolen vehicle. Making it difficult to remove your tag, decreases the chances that it will be stolen.
- 4. Reduce attention to your vehicle.** Do not leave ANYTHING in plain view on the seats of your vehicle. Firearms, packages, cellular phones, purses etc. draw attention to your vehicle. Never leave the title to your vehicle in the vehicle itself. This makes it easier for someone to forge your name and sell your vehicle.
- 5. If you have your vehicle "For Sale by Owner" be careful who "test drives" your vehicle.** Do not assume that the potential buyer's vehicle is his/hers, it could be stolen. Ask for identification before handing your keys over.
- 6. Any extra security devices are a good idea.** There are several different types of anti-theft devices on the market today. Everything from steering wheel locks to hidden cut off switches can give you added protection.
- 7. Call us about suspicious activity.** Unknown vehicles seen driving in your neighborhood with windows that are broken out should be considered suspicious. Also, an unknown vehicle that is parked in the neighborhood with a screwdriver in the ignition or a missing ignition is an indicator of a stolen vehicle and should be reported to law enforcement.
- 8. Lock your car and take the keys.** Car thieves are known to hang around shopping centers, gas stations, convenience stores, day cares, etc. waiting for a victim who leaves his or her car keys in the vehicle while paying for gas, "running in for a minute", etc. **Do not be a victim. Always lock your car and take the keys!**