

Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Recommendations



- Remember to lock your car and put the keys in your pocket 20% of all stolen vehicles have keys already in them. Remember to lock the trunk as well as the hatchback or the tailgate of the station wagon or sport utility vehicle (SUV).
- **Do not** leave your motor vehicle registration, insurance policies, credit cards or other important papers in a vehicles glove compartment.
- **NEVER** hide a second set of keys in your vehicle. Extra keys can easily be found. Store a spare key in your wallet or purse
- Avoid parking next to vans, pickups, and other large vehicles. These large vehicles can "HIDE" your vehicle and make it more difficult for others to observe.
- Please periodically check your license plates to make sure they haven't been stolen, switched or altered.
- Don't invite a vehicle break-in by leaving packages or valuables (RADAR DETECTORS, CELLULAR PHONES, COMPACT DISC PLAYERS, ETC.) in site. Take valuables with you, put them under the seat, or lock them in the trunk.
- Park in well-lighted and busy areas.
- On cold mornings never leave your motor vehicle running while it is unattended, in order to warm up.
- For each motor vehicle you own or lease, record the following information on and keep it in a safe location (NOT IN THE VEHICLE).
 - MAKE AND MODEL
 - MODEL YEAR
 - REGISTRATION NUMBER (PLATE)
 - VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)
 - COLOR
 - NAME OF INSURANCE COMPANY AND AGENT
 - ENGINE SIZE
 - ANY PECULIARITIES OF VEHICLE (DENTS, PIN STRIPES, ETC.)
 - KEY NUMBER
- Avoid transferring items to the trunk of a vehicle in the parking lot. A thief may be watching. Checkbooks, credit cards, or other credentials, which a thief could misuse, should not be left in a motor vehicle.
- Lock your garage door. Also, lock your vehicle doors, even when it's in the garage.
- Use metal cane type steering wheel locks. The metal cane hooks around the brake pedal on one end, and around the steering wheel rim or spoke on the other. The device is drawn tight and locked with a key.
- **Use a locking gas cap**, not only to prevent theft of gasoline, but also to limit a thief to the amount of driving a thief can do on one tank of gasoline.