

Vehicle Burglary

In these tough economic times, Vehicle Burglary is on the rise all across the country. Below we share some awareness tips.

What is Vehicle Burglary?

Vehicle Burglary is:

- theft of property of any value from a locked vehicle and
- a felony.

What items are most commonly stolen from vehicles?

- Briefcases and computers
- Cash, jewelry, mail, and keys
- Garage door openers
- Cell phones and chargers
- CD's, CD cases and iPods
- Purses, wallets, and day planners (even if under seat)
- Gym bags
- Tools
- Stereos and faceplates

Many times vehicle burglary can lead to residential burglary especially if the thief takes items that have your home address on them, i.e. vehicle registration and mail.

What steps can you take to reduce your chances of becoming a victim?

1. Remove visible items from your vehicle
 - a. Be aware that someone else may be watching as you put a wallet, purse, or cell phone under your seat.

2. Lock Up
 - a. Your car doors when you leave your car and take the keys with you. Be sure to lock the trunk and/or tailgate.
 - b. Close all windows. Professional thieves have tools that help unlock cars through a minimum of open space.
 - c. Be sure that vent or wind-wing windows and sunroofs are shut tight and locked.
 - d. Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store, or mini-mall.
 - e. Buy an alarm and use it.
3. Park Safely
 - a. At home, park in your garage if you have one. Lock your car and all garage doors.
 - b. Park in well-lit areas.
 - c. Check to see that your vehicle is visible to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
 - d. Avoid alleys.
4. Other reminders
 - a. Make a copy of your registration, black out the address on the copy. Keep the copy, not the original, in your car.
 - b. Do not leave mail in your car, especially where visible. This has your name and address on it.
 - c. Avoid leaving garage door opener in your vehicle if possible.
 - d. Never leave your keys in your car.
 - e. Never label your home address as "home" in your navigation system address list.

Remember you can help reduce vehicle crime by removing items from sight in your vehicle and properly locking your vehicle. Stay aware and stay safe.