



Norfolk Police Department Crime Prevention Tips To Prevent Auto Theft

Tips to Protect Your Vehicle

- Take Your Keys. One out of every five vehicles stolen had the keys in it.
- Lock Your Car. Almost half of all vehicles stolen were left unlocked.
- Don't Hide a Second Set of Keys in Your Car. Extra keys can easily be found if a thief takes time to look. Make sure any spare keys that may have come with the owner's manual are not left in the glove-box.
- Park in Well-Lighted Areas.
- Park in Attended Lots. Auto thieves do not like witnesses and prefer unattended parking lots.
- Only give ignition/door key to parking attendant.
- Don't leave your car running unattended. Vehicles are commonly stolen at convenience stores, gas stations, ATM's, etc. Many vehicles are also stolen on cold mornings when the owner leaves the vehicle running to warm up.
- Completely Close Car Windows When Parking. Don't make it any easier for the thief to enter your vehicle.
- Hide Your Valuables. Don't make your car a more desirable target for thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight.

Anti-Theft Devices

- Visible Steering Wheel Lock. Prevents the steering wheel from being turned.
- Floorboard Locks. Devices that disable the gas or brake pedal.
- Gearshift Locks. Disables shifting of the transmission.
- Tire/Wheel Locks. Prevents the vehicle from moving.
- Hood Locks. Prevents the thief from gaining access to your security system and battery.
- Armored Collar Around the Steering Column. Protects the column and ignition.
- Alarms. Security systems which make loud warning sounds when doors/hood/trunk are opened. Optional sensors detect glass breakage, motion, tampering, and towing. Panic buttons, back-up batteries, flashing parking lights or headlights, and automatic engine-disable features are also popular.
- Vehicle Tracking. Transmitter hidden in car enables police to track car (may not be available in all areas).
- Check out <http://www.heatreward.com/> for more information on Auto Theft prevention and rewards for assisting the police.

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