



## AUTO THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

Tips to help reduce auto theft:

- Always take your keys. Never leave them in the car. Nearly 20% of all vehicles stolen had the keys in them.
- Always lock your car. Approximately 50% of all vehicles stolen were left unlocked.
- Never hide a second set of key in your car. Extra keys can easily be found if a car thief takes time to look.
- Park in well-lighted areas. Over half of all vehicle thefts occur at night.
- Never leave your car running, even if you will only be gone for a minute. 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. Leaving your key in an unattended motor vehicle is a crime in some states.
- Don't leave valuables in plain view. Don't make your car a more desirable target and attract thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight.
- Park with your wheels turned towards the curb. Make your car tough to tow away. Wheels should also be turned to the side in driveways and parking lots.
- If your vehicle is rear-wheel drive, back into your driveway. Front-wheel drive vehicles should be parked front end first. On four-wheel drive vehicles the rear wheels sometimes lock, making them difficult to tow.
- Always use your emergency brake when parking. In addition to ensuring safety, using the emergency brake makes your car harder to tow.
- If you have a garage, take the time to use it rather than parking outside where your vehicle is more vulnerable
- When parking in a garage, lock the garage door and your vehicle. by locking both the garage and vehicle doors, the chances of deterring a thief greatly improve.
- Don't Leave the Registration or Title in Your Car. A car thief will use these to sell your stolen car. File the title at your home or office, and carry registration in your purse or wallet.
- Disable your vehicle when leaving it unattended for an extended period.
- Here are a few auto theft prevention devices you may want to consider:
  - Fuel Kill Switch. The valve that halts the fuel supply is closed.
  - 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.