

# CAR BURGLARY PREVENTION



## PREVENTION TIPS

1. Hide your valuables. Smash-and-grab car burglars aren't exactly criminal masterminds. Many simple act on opportunity. So keep your valuable belongings with you, or out of sight. Car floors, dashboards, on or under seats are not good places to leave items like:

- Purses, wallets, Laptop bags and briefcases
- Shopping bags, backpacks and school books
- Cell phones, GPS Systems, and MP3 players
- Loose change, keys

If you can't take items with you, don't hide them out of sight in your trunk in the lot as you leave your car. Prior to your destination, stop in a safe area, place items in your trunk, then go to the parking lot of your destination. Many Auto Burglars have used modified keys to access trunks. If possible for a night out, leave all unnecessary items at home, carry your ID, cash, cell phone on your person.

2. Keep your car visible. The last thing thieves want is a crowd of onlookers to witness their crime. Continue to be wary as thieves also know about how long it takes for Police to respond on a busy night and onlookers may not deter them for a good opportunity. You can help prevent a burglary by parking your car in crowded areas such as:

- Busy parking lots and designated spaces, near pedestrian and vehicle traffic
- Well-lit spaces, especially those near a lamppost if you're out after dusk
- Parking lots with an attendant

3. Make burglaries difficult.

Smash-and-grab car burglars don't want the complexity of a caper movie when stealing your iPod or cash. Every hurdle you can provide makes it more likely they'll move on. Following

this simple advice will give you an added layer of protection against car burglaries.

- Lock you doors and roll up your windows when you park
- Activate your security system
- Consider window tinting (if permitted by local laws)
- Avoid using the console or glove box as

mobile lockboxes, car prowlers report they will pry into locked boxes.

4. Don't hand a car burglar your keys. Leaving your key on the dash or in the ignition is an invitation to a car burglar. And keep in mind that if you have a great hiding place for a spare key (in your wheel well or above your sun visor), a thief has thought of it too.

5. Trust your instincts. If you see suspicious activity, find somewhere else to park. Don't confront anyone: If you're concerned, report your suspicions to an attendant or the police. By reporting suspicious activity to the proper authorities, you can help prevent others from becoming a victim of a car burglary or another crime.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Emergency/Crimes in Progress**  
9-1-1

**Police Non-Emergency**  
(801) 799-3000

**Fire Department Non-Emergency**  
(801) 799-4231

**Police General Information**  
(801) 799-3100

**Neighborhood Watch**  
(801) 799-6397

**Community Information Line**  
2-1-1

## THE FACTS

When you're away from your car the only thing that comes between an opportunistic thief and the valuables in your car is a sheet of safety glass.

Many times car burglars are after your stereo, cell phone or other loose belongings you've left in your car in plain sight. **Have a record of every item with a serial number, computers, iPods, GPS systems, cell phones. With a serial number, the ability to recover your stolen item is greatly enhanced.**

Unfortunately, car burglaries can be expensive, from the cost of repairs to replacing your belongings. And they can leave you feeling victimized, too. You can minimize the likelihood you'll fall prey to a car burglary by following these simple burglary prevention tips.