



Don't Let A Thief Steal Your Wheels!

City of Richmond Crime Prevention - Auto Theft

Auto theft and burglary is a common yet costly crime to citizens and the City. Although auto theft is not completely preventable, you can take precautions that greatly reduce the likelihood of being targeted.

- 1.) Lock your car and take your keys with you even when parked in your driveway. An unlocked car is an easy target for a thief.
- 2.) Park in a well-lighted, well traveled area, close to a corner with foot traffic. Completely close your windows, and sunroofs, even when leaving your vehicle for a short time.
- 3.) If your vehicle is parked in front of your house, consider installing a light with a motion detection sensor. Replace knob or "T" shaped door lock buttons with tapered ones.
- 4.) Consider etching your driver's license number, or a personal identifier discreetly on any car parts or accessories which might be taken by a thief so it can be returned to you if recovered.
- 5.) Ensure you have a locking gas cap.
- 6.) Be careful not to leave valuables such as purses, wallets, CD's, I Pods, cell phones, laptops, blackberries, or other expensive items in you car within plain view. If you do not want it stolen, take it with you.
- 7.) **Consider anti theft devices such as "the club" for commonly stolen vehicles such as 1991 Honda Accord, 1990-1995 Honda Civic, 1989 Toyota Camry, 1994 Nissan Sentra, 1990 Acura Integra, 1986 Toyota Pickup, 1993 Saturn SL, 1987 Toyota Corolla, 1990 Chevrolet Full Size C/K 1500 Pickup, 1997 Ford F150 Series.**
- 8.) Activate any theft deterrent device you may have such as car alarms, mechanical locking devices, and ignition cut offs and wheel locks. Many people have these devices, but it is important to use them consistently. Consider theft protection devices for car radios and rims.
- 9.) If you have access to a garage, use it. If you share a carport or communal garage meet with your neighbors and your property manager to discuss strategies improving vehicle safety.
- 10.) Do not leave your license, wallet, spare keys, social security card, vehicle registration, car title, proof of insurance, bills, or anything with your address in unattended in your car. Although it is required that you carry some of these items when operating a motor vehicle, it is recommended that you carry these on your person, rather than in your glove compartment. A thief can use the information in your car to sell it, or assume your identity.

If you have further questions about this and other safety tips, call the City of Richmond Crime Prevention Unit at (510) 620-6538.