



American Crime
Prevention Institute

PREVENTING THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

AMERICAN CRIME PREVENTION INSTITUTE

Theft from Motor Vehicles

- Theft from Auto
- Larceny from Auto
- Theft from Vehicle
- Auto Burglary
- Vehicle Burglary





Theft from Motor Vehicles

- In recent years, there has been an epidemic of car burglaries throughout the US. Law enforcement agencies are challenged to stem this increase of theft from motor vehicles.

Why the Increase of Theft from Motor Vehicles?

- Theft of motor vehicles has become more difficult
- SUVs and pickup trucks don't have trunks
- People are careless – unsecured doors and windows
- Residential garages left open

Why the Increase of Theft from Motor Vehicles?

- Talking on phones – texting – distracted
- Growing market for stolen items – internet
- Items of value in open view
- Juveniles have more time – not in school



What is Stolen From Vehicles?

- Mobile communication devices – smart phones
- Presence of charging cords
- Shopping bags – wrapped packages
- iPads – personal computers
- Clothing



What is Stolen From Vehicles?



- Guns – Change – Cameras
- Sunglasses – Jewelry – Checkbooks
- Portable GPS navigation systems
- Personal Electronics – Garage door openers
- Briefcases – Gym bags

Prevention Strategies

- Theft from motor vehicles should be a comprehensive crime prevention priority strategy or program – similar to Neighborhood Watch – not a piecemeal effort



Prevention Strategies

- Install vehicle anti-theft alarms
- Park in well-lit areas
- Use of crime opportunity notice
- Never leave unattended vehicles running – warming up cars in winter



Prevention Strategies

- Close and lock home garage doors
- Don't move valuables to trunk while in public view
- Disable interior trunk release lock
- For pickups, use of heavy-duty locks on boxes secured to bed of truck
- Car burglary public service announcements (PSAs)



Prevention Strategies

- Plain clothes bike patrols – use “bait” cars
- Don’t leave valuable in vehicles overnight at home
- Don’t leave visible docking stations or connector cables
- Focus home video cameras on outdoor parking

Prevention Strategies

- Warnings on electric signboards
- 9pm routine program
- Focused “hot spot” policing
- Sign campaign

#9PMROUTINE

Lock up. Make it a habit.

- Remove valuables from vehicles
- Lock vehicle doors
- Close & lock all exterior doors
- Turn on exterior light




Source: northmiamifl.gov/823/9PM-Routine

LOCK
Your Car

TAKE
Your Keys

HIDE
Your Belongings



Okaloosa County
Sheriff's Office
850-651-7400

See A Crime Call 911

PREVENT THEFT

 **LOCK**
YOUR CAR

 **TAKE**
YOUR KEYS

 **HIDE**
YOUR BELONGINGS

 **FILL**
A DECOY PURSE WITH THOUSANDS
OF ANGRY, POISONOUS BEES

Glendale Galleria | Obvious Plant



CITY OF GREENVILLE
POLICE

LOCK
your car



TAKE
your keys

HIDE
your belongings

**Call 911 to Report Any
Suspicious Activity**

Theft From Motor Vehicles

- Crime of opportunity
- Most not forcible entry
- Risk increases at holiday time
- Thieves may use flashlight to see through tinted windows
- Older vehicles more vulnerable – weaker door locks



Place this Poster or Sign in Front Seat of Unoccupied Vehicle



Theft from Vehicle Strategies

- Work in pairs – one as lookout – one tries vehicle doors
- Keyless systems lock – vehicle unlocks as owner with key nears it – car thieves extend the signal with signal amplifiers – open door and activate start button.



Theft from Vehicle Strategies

- Broken pieces of ceramic in sock – often from spark plug insulators – used to strike car door windows – shatter quietly
- “Slim Jim” – a thin metal strap or rod that slips inside a door’s cavity and the base of the window – manipulates internal door locking mechanism or linkage



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