

Car Security Measures

Theft prevention starts before you leave your vehicle

Most smash-and-grab thieves are opportunists. They see something they like, so they break in and take it. So, before you get out of your car, make sure your valuables are out of sight. Better yet, don't leave any valuables in your car at all. Never leave these things lying out on your seats, dashboard or floor:



- Phone or other small electronics
- Purse or wallet
- Laptop (or its bag)
- A briefcase, backpack, or duffel bag
- Shopping bags
- Cash
- Your keys – it happens!

New Tricks: Burglars Really Do Use Bluetooth Scanners to Find Laptops and Phones

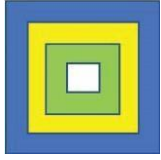
Bluetooth scanners are readily available as smartphone apps and easy to use. They use your smartphone's own internal Bluetooth sensor to find nearby signals. They not only list everything they find, but also provide details like what type of device they're picking up, whether that device is currently paired to another Bluetooth device, and how close the listed devices are within a few meters. *Always power down your device or put it in airplane mode if you must leave your electronics in your vehicle. Don't leave it in sleep mode since the Bluetooth function is still active in sleep mode.*

Consider installing an auto alarm

You can get a car alarm now that sends a notification to your smart phone, so that you know if your car alarm has been activated no matter where you are. Many car alarms now feature sensors that will go off for unauthorized entry into the passenger compartment, under the hood, or in the trunk.

Never leave your valuables in the car.

Burglars like to observe people exiting their cars in parking areas. Women are particularly vulnerable if they leave their car without their purse or wallet on them since criminals observing them can conclude that they have left valuables in the car somewhere. If you are going to an activity that makes carrying your purse inconvenient then get a fanny pack or wear something that allows you to keep your keys, credit cards, identification, and phone with you when you leave the car. Leave the rest of your personal belongings at home. This type of auto burglary has occurred in our community.



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Paperwork with personal information is valuable, too!

If a thief breaks into your vehicle and takes your garage door opener and your insurance card or registration (in the glove box) they now have your home address and a means to get into your garage. This exposure increases if you haven't locked the door between the garage and house.

You can minimize the risk of this happening by not leaving any paperwork in your car that contains your home address. One way of doing this is to make a copy of the registration and insurance certificates, white-out the address on the copies then make another copy of the whited-out documents. Keep the original at home and put the copies with no address in the glove box. Shred the interim copies you made with white out on them. Law enforcement officers will accept photocopies without your address since they can verify the information on their computer.