

USEFUL INFORMATION ON THEFTS FROM AUTO'S PREVENTION

Since cold weather is upon us, never leave your car running and unattended to warm it up (prevent your car from being stolen)!

All auto break-ins usually have one thing in common: there's something left in the car worth stealing. Most thefts from cars are "crimes of opportunity" that could be prevented by taking some preventative steps. Don't leave valuables in your vehicle: You'd be surprised how often this happens, but individuals leave valuable items in plain sight all the time. If you leave items in your vehicle and they're visible, the chances your vehicle will get broken into increase greatly.

- Place items out of sight BEFORE reaching your destination: Someone may be watching where you put your valuables and the moment you're gone, a thief could break into your car. Place items in a safe place before you get to your destination. Valuable items that thieves target are GPS units, MP3 players, credit cards, money and packages.
- Avoid leaving packages or shopping bags out in the open: Lock them into your trunk, if you have to leave the vehicle unattended. Never open a trunk, fill it with valuables, close it, and walk away.
- Lock ALL vehicles' doors: This is true even if you plan on only being gone for "just a second". Remember, it only takes seconds to steal items from your car. It's not uncommon, for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles, looking for unlocked doors. Also, make sure car windows aren't left open.
- Park in busy, well lit areas: Pick a parking spot where there is a lot of activity. Auto thieves prefer breaking into cars in isolated areas.
- Don't leave a trace: Don't leave any sign that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle. For example: the suction cup on your dashboard, might tell thieves, that you have a GPS system in your vehicle. Leave nothing in plain view. Very few auto break-ins are "random". The thieves usually see something out in the open or hints of possible hidden valuables.
- Alarms or anti-theft devices work: Thieves are usually looking for the "easiest" target. If your car has an alarm, it could act as a deterrent. But don't make this common mistake: Just because you have an alarm, doesn't mean thieves won't break-in, IF you leave valuable items in plain sight.
- Don't leave spare keys in your vehicle: An experienced thief knows all the hiding places. Store spare keys elsewhere, possibly your wallet or purse.