

Vehicle Prowl Prevention



Vehicle prowls are the theft of property from a motor vehicle. Most are crimes of opportunity through unlocked doors and open windows where victims usually encounter expensive vehicle damage—especially to their windows, doors and locks. Large parking locations like shopping centers, housing communities, parks and schools are prime targets for a prowler since multiple vehicles can be hit in a short time span. Also, prowlers know the odds are good that someone will leave a door unlocked, a window down or keys in the ignition.

**For emergencies,
call 9-1-1**

While vehicle prowls are very common, they are preventable. Use these easy and inexpensive tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle prowling.

Parking & Securing Your Vehicle

- Use a garage or secure location whenever possible.
- Park in well-lit areas where your car can be seen.
- Avoid isolated areas. Park near locations frequently used by pedestrians.
- If you hear something suspicious (shattering glass) or see someone looking into vehicles, call 9-1-1.
- Roll up the windows and lock all doors.
- Secure the trunk, hatches, bed-mounted tool boxes, and canopies.
- Activate your alarm.
- Install anti-theft devices.

Remove These Items

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| ■ Cameras | ■ Day planner | ■ Laptop | ■ Tools |
| ■ CD player and CDs | ■ Electronic devices | ■ Luggage or bags | ■ Vehicle insurance, title and registration information |
| ■ Cell phones | ■ Garage door opener | ■ Mail | ■ Wallets |
| ■ Checkbooks | ■ GPS unit | ■ Purses | |
| ■ Clothing | ■ Jewelry | ■ Receipts/statements | |
| ■ Credit/debit, gift cards | ■ Keys | ■ Store bags or packages | |

Anti-Theft Devices

- Steering wheel locking devices are easy to install and inexpensive.
- Car alarms are convenient and effective—especially if they disable the vehicle's starter when activated.
- Install switches to interrupt the fuel supply or electrical systems.
- Locking gas caps deter fuel from being siphoned.

Remember this . . .

- Lock your doors and windows. Prowls are crimes of opportunity!
- Remove your personal property. Put your junk in the trunk!
- Use anti-theft devices. Utilize visual deterrents.



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