

PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT



Each year, hundreds of cars are stolen from neighborhoods just like yours. There are many things YOU CAN DO to prevent car theft.

Always shut the doors, windows, and sunroof and lock the car! If you are leaving the car, make sure it is secure. Never leave the car running, even for a second, while you run to get something. Thieves are watching so secure your vehicle and always remove the keys from the ignition.



Theft of personal belongings account for a large percentage of all automotive theft crimes, so leaving something on display in the car invites trouble. It takes seconds to smash a car window and take your property. Bags, phones, laptops and portable satellite navigation systems are all popular targets for thieves, so remove any trace of them, including the chargers! Criminals may even break in for items such as coats, gloves or even small change, so lock all belongings securely in the trunk. Get valuables out of sight!



Hide your keys! With increasing levels of security on new cars, getting hold of the keys may be the only way a thief may be able to steal the car, and breaking into houses to steal car keys is becoming more commonplace. Make sure that the keys are in a hidden location and not on display visible through a window or door.

Safe & Sound is working diligently with Law Enforcement to help keep all residents of Milwaukee safe. If you would like more information about car safety, dealing with specific issues in your neighborhood, or starting a block watch, please call 221-6700 today.



TIPS TO PREVENT YOUR CAR FROM BEING STOLEN

- **Take your keys and lock your car.** *Approximately 50 % of all vehicles stolen were left unlocked.*
- **Never hide a second set of keys in your car.** *Extra keys can be easily found if a thief takes time to look. Give a trusted friend, family member or neighbor your spare set of keys.*
- **Park in well-lit and busy areas.** *Auto thieves do not like witnesses and prefer unattended parking lots.*
- **Never leave your car running, even if you'll only be gone for a minute.** *Vehicles are commonly stolen at convenience stores, gas stations, ATMs, etc. Many vehicles are also stolen on cold mornings when the owner leaves the vehicle running to warm up.*
- **Don't leave any items inside of your car.** *To you, it's just an empty gym bag in the back seat. To a thief, it can contain electronics, music, your phone or a wallet. Put it in the trunk or cover it up. Don't make your car a more desirable target and attract thieves by leaving items in plain sight.*
- **Invest in an anti-theft device.** *There are several options when it comes to simple anti-theft devices. Devices that lock the ignition, steering wheel, and gearshift are great options. An example of this sort of device is The Club.*
- **Park with your wheels turned toward the curb.** *Make your car tough to tow away. Wheels should also be turned to the side in driveways and parking lots.*
- **If your vehicle is rear-wheel drive, back into your driveway.** *Rear wheels lock on four-wheel drive vehicles, making them difficult to tow. Park front-wheel drive cars front end first.*
- **Always use your emergency brake when parking.** *In addition to ensuring safety, using the emergency brake makes your car harder to tow.*
- **If you have a garage, use it.** *If you have a garage, take the time to use it rather than parking outside where your vehicle is more vulnerable. Also, lock the garage door and your vehicle. By locking both the garage and vehicle doors, the chances of deterring a thief greatly improve.*
- **Don't leave the title in your car.** *A car thief will use this to "sell" your stolen car. Keep the title at your home or office, not in your glove box.*
- **Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).** *Stolen cars/parts are more easily traced when the VIN's have been etched on car windows and major parts. Also, copy your license plate and VIN on a card and keep them with you. If your vehicle is stolen, the Police will need this information.*

For more information, contact Safe & Sound at 221-6700.