

Vehicle Theft Prevention Tips

Ten Tips to Out-Smart a Car Thief

1. **Use Common Sense:** The cheapest form of defense is to simply employ an anti-theft device that is standard on all vehicles; locks. Keep the car locked and don't leave your keys in the car.
2. **Out of Sight, Out of Mind:** Keep all personal belonging, including iPods, cell phones and other valuables out of sight.
3. **VIN Etching:** Consider etching the car's Vehicle Identification Number onto the glass surfaces. This method makes the vehicle less attractive since the glass windows would have to be replaced.
4. **Park in a Well-Lighted Area:** Thieves obviously prefer to work undetected. You can make it harder by parking in an area that is well lit.
5. **Park in Attended Lots:** Auto thieves do not want people around to witness their crimes and thus tend to target unattended parking areas.
6. **Be Careful with Keys at the Valet:** If your trunk and glove box use the same key as the door have one of them changed. Don't give a parking attendant easy access to your glove box and trunk and don't leave important documents in them.
7. **Don't Leave Your car Running Unattended:** Sounds painfully obvious, right? Well, people do it all the time. Vehicles are commonly stolen at convenience stores, gas stations, ATMs and the like when a driver dashes inside and leaves the car running.
8. **Warning Devices:** Having and using a visible or audible warning device can help deter thieves such as alarms with a visible light to indicate the alarm is activated.
9. **Immobilizing Devices:** "Kill switches, fuel cut-offs, and smart keys (standard on some vehicles) can be extremely effective at preventing auto thefts according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). If your car won't start it can't be stolen. Kill switches can be a simple on/off switch such as the ones we have in our police cars. Usually lock smiths can install them.
10. **Tracking Devices:** GPS tracking systems such as BMW's Assist and GM's OnStar help recover numerous vehicles every year. These protective systems are available on most newer model vehicles and third-party systems such as LoJack are also available.