

Vehicle Theft Prevention Tips

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These days, our cars are just as important to us as anything else. We depend on them to get us to and from work, to drop the kids off at school and, of course, to run countless errands. With all of these distractions, it's easy to sometimes leave yourself vulnerable to opportunistic car thieves. All it takes is an unlocked door or something valuable left in plain view to draw the attention of a car thief.

Below are several strategies to reduce your likelihood of becoming a victim of auto theft:

- Always lock your doors and make sure your windows are completely closed
- Never leave your keys (even an emergency spare key) inside the car
- Don't leave anything of value inside your car, especially in plain sight
- If you park your car in your garage, make sure the garage is closed
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Be aware of persons loitering in parking lots, sitting in vehicles, or persons who appear to be watching for opportunities to steal cars or other valuables
- Immediately report any suspicious activity or behavior to the police department
- Write down your license plate and vehicle information and have it handy if you need to report a theft to the police

We depend on our cars for a lot. Make sure you're doing everything you can to continue enjoying the ride!

For more information on crime prevention and personal safety, please visit CrimePrevention.IrvinePD.org.