Theft from Motor Vehicle Prevention

Thefts from motor vehicles are reported to the police department every week and remains, year after year, one of the most frequently occurring crimes in the United States. Most are crimes of opportunity through unlocked doors and open windows. Vehicles are easy targets and often contain property attractive to thieves. Large parking lot locations like shopping centers, housing communities, parks, and schools are prime targets for a theft since multiple vehicles can be hit in a short time span. A theft from a vehicle may leave you with the inconvenience of replacing property, making reports to your insurance company and the police, repairing damage to your vehicle, and the frustration of losing your valuables. Use these easy and inexpensive tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim.

Parking & Securing Your Vehicle:

◊ Use a garage or secure location whenever possible
◊ Roll up the windows and lock all doors. Never leave your keys anywhere in or on the car.
◊ Park in well-lit areas where your car can be seen
◊ Secure the trunk, hatches, bed-mounting tool boxes, and canopies
◊ Avoid isolated areas. Park near locations frequently used by pedestrians
◊ Activate your alarm
◊ If you hear something suspicious (shattering glass) or see someone looking into vehicles, call 911
◊ Install anti-theft devices

Remove These Items:

◊ Cameras
◊ CD player and CD’s
◊ Cell phones
◊ Checkbooks
◊ Clothing
◊ Credit/debit, gift cards
◊ Day planner
◊ Electronic devices
◊ Garage door opener
◊ GPS unit
◊ Keys
◊ Laptop
◊ Luggage or bags
◊ Mail
◊ Purses
◊ Receipts/statements
◊ Store bags or packages
◊ Tools
◊ Vehicle title
◊ Wallets

Anti-Theft Devices:

◊ Car alarms are convenient and effective
◊ Install switches to interrupt the fuel supply
◊ Locking gas caps deter fuel from being siphoned

For Emergencies, Call 911

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