



“How to Keep From Losing Your Ride”

Stolen Vehicle Reduction Program



Auto Theft Prevention Tips

Professional thieves can steal any car, but you can make them work for it! To prevent thefts, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) recommends the “Layered Protection.” The more layers of protection on your vehicle, the more difficult it is to steal.

Layer #1 – YOU

YOU are the first line of defense in protecting your vehicle. An unlocked vehicle with a key in the ignition is an open invitation to any thief, regardless of which anti-theft device you use.

- ☑ **Lock your car** – half of all vehicles stolen are left unlocked.
- ☑ **Take your keys** – nearly 20% of all vehicles stolen have the keys in them.
- ☑ **Park in well-lit areas** – car thefts occur at night more than half the time.
- ☑ **Park in attended lots** – car thieves do not like witnesses.
- ☑ **Do not** leave your vehicle running and unattended and valuables in plain view.
- ☑ **If you have a garage, use it** – when you do, lock both vehicles and the garage door.
- ☑ **Never** hide a spare set of keys in or on the vehicle.
- ☑ **Park** your vehicle with the wheels turning toward the curb and use the emergency brake.



Layer #2 – Warning Device

The second layer of protection is a **visible or audible device** which alerts thieves your vehicle is protected. These include audible alarms, steering wheel locks and steering column locks.

Layer #3 – Immobilizing Device

This third layer of protection is a **device** which prevents thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring the vehicle. Some electronic devices have computer chips in the ignition keys. Other devices inhibit the flow of electricity of fuel to the engine until a hidden switch or button is activated.

Layer #4 – Tracking Device

The final layer of protection is a tracking device which emits a signal to a police or monitoring station when the vehicle is reported stolen. Tracking devices are very effective in helping authorities recover stolen vehicles.

Other ways of protecting your vehicle:

- ☑ **VIN Etching** - This is a method of etching the vehicle identification number into windows to identify and deter resale of stolen vehicle parts.
- ☑ **Watch your car program**—This is a program that identifies your vehicle to police during late night hours; police can stop the vehicle and identify the driver if the car is out from 1:00 AM to 5:00 AM.

Remember to be vigilant - Be aware of your surroundings and look for suspicious persons. If you see someone who appears nervous, is pulling vehicle door handles, looking into windows, or bumping into vehicles checking for alarms, notify someone immediately and call the police.

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