

Auto Theft Prevention Tips

- Remove your keys from the ignition and take them with you.
- Lock your vehicle.
- Never hide a second set of keys in your vehicle.
- Park in attended lots.
- If you use valet parking, leave only the ignition/door key.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Never leave your vehicle running, even if you will be gone for only a minute.
- Completely close all windows of parked vehicles.
- Do not leave valuables or paperwork in plain sight.
- Park with your wheels turned toward the curb to make your vehicle more difficult to tow.
- Back a rear-wheel-drive vehicle into your driveway to make it more difficult to tow.
- Set your emergency brake when parking your vehicle to make it more difficult to tow.
- If you have a garage, park your vehicle in it and lock it. Do not leave the title paperwork (“pink slip”) in your vehicle.

Vehicle Break-in Prevention Tips

- Place all tempting items—especially cell phones and other electronic equipment—out of sight.
- Do not leave any papers with personal information (such as mail or bank statements) in your car. Even blank papers might tempt a thief to break into your car in an attempt to steal your identity.
- Lock all doors, windows and any sunroof before leaving your car.
- Park in a locked garage or well-lit area. Call police to report any suspicious activity around parked vehicles.

Burglary Prevention Tips

- Lock your doors and windows when you leave your home.
- Don’t leave notes saying you’re not home and when you will return.
- Become familiar with your neighbors and their cars.
- Beware of strangers knocking on doors. They may be burglars checking to see if a house is unoccupied.
- Don’t leave a house key hidden outside your home.
- Keep your home well lit.
- Keep trees and bushes trimmed so they don’t provide cover for burglars.
- If you come home and see evidence that someone has been in your home or may still be there, leave the area and **call police immediately at 911. Report any suspicious activity to HPD Dispatch 935-3311**

Auto Theft Prevention 10 tips:

1. Close all windows, lock your car and take the keys. An unlocked car is open invention to thieves.
2. Park in a well lit area. Thieves like to work in the dark.
3. Park with front wheels turned sharply right or left to make it difficult for professional thieves to tow your car.
4. Park front wheel drive cars in 'park' (in gear with manual transmission) with the emergency brake on. That locks all 4 wheels and makes towing your car difficult.
5. Put packages or valuables out of sight. Radios, tape decks, phones, etc...invite theft. Lock them in the trunk.
6. Keep license and registration in your wallet or purse. If stolen with your car, thieves can use them to impersonate you and sell your car.
7. If you have a garage, use it. Lock both car and garage.
8. If you must leave a key with a lot attendant, leave only the ignition key. Make sure that it does not display your key number as it can then be easily duplicated.
9. Install one or more anti-theft devices. 'Passive' systems activate automatically while 'Active' systems require you to turn them on. within these two broad categories are a wide variety of devices that activate sirens and lights, plus systems designed to lock up fuel, brake, ignition or steering systems. Prices range from \$5 to over \$800.

No amount of prevention can guarantee that your car will not be stolen, but by taking a few simple precautions you can greatly reduce the opportunity for the possible offender, and of becoming another auto theft victim.

Additional Tips:

- Never leave your keys in the ignition.
- Do not leave park cards in your vehicle. If your vehicle is stolen the card or ticket assist the exit and escape.
- Avoid parking at the end of a block where towing is much easier. When you park in a driveway, the front of the car should be facing the street. Anyone tampering with the engine will be visible to the neighbors and police.
- Record your vehicle identification number. Keep a record of those number in your purse or wallet for in the event your vehicle is stolen. Also record the serial numbers of accessories such as cassettes, C.B.s, radar detectors, etc....
- Etching is a new process being used to combat auto theft. It consist of engraving your drivers license or social security number in the vehicle.
- You can assist in the recovery of your vehicle should it be stolen by placing business cards or return address labels under the floor mats, behind the seats, or down the window chambers and inside the doors.
- Alarm systems that disable the started or fuel systems are effective against theft. PLEASE adjust your alarm in a way that eliminates false alarms. If your systems is set to a too sensitive setting, the numerous false alarms will be ignored defeating the purpose of the alarm.
- Install a hidden ignition "kill" switch.
- Install a hidden GPS Tracker in case your car is stolen.