



Malton Women Council



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the City of Brampton's  
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# AUTO THEFT

## TIP SHEET



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# Auto Theft

Auto theft is a significant problem in the Greater Toronto Area. While numbers have been declining, auto theft continues to compromise public safety.





# How does auto theft occur?

Thieves have many ways of stealing cars. Some of the common methods include:

- Reprogramming – Reprogramming is often used for high-end cars with keyless entry and push-start technology. Thieves take a picture of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) through the front windshield. They pre-load the VIN into a reprogramming device, force entry into the car, access the car's electronic control modules, reprogram the car, and drive away. The cars are then taken to the Port of Montreal to be resold internationally.
- Re-vinning – This technique involves changing an automobile's VIN to a fraudulent number to hide that the vehicle has been stolen. To ensure you are not buying a fraudulent used vehicle, visit the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council's website: <https://www.omvic.ca/buying/>

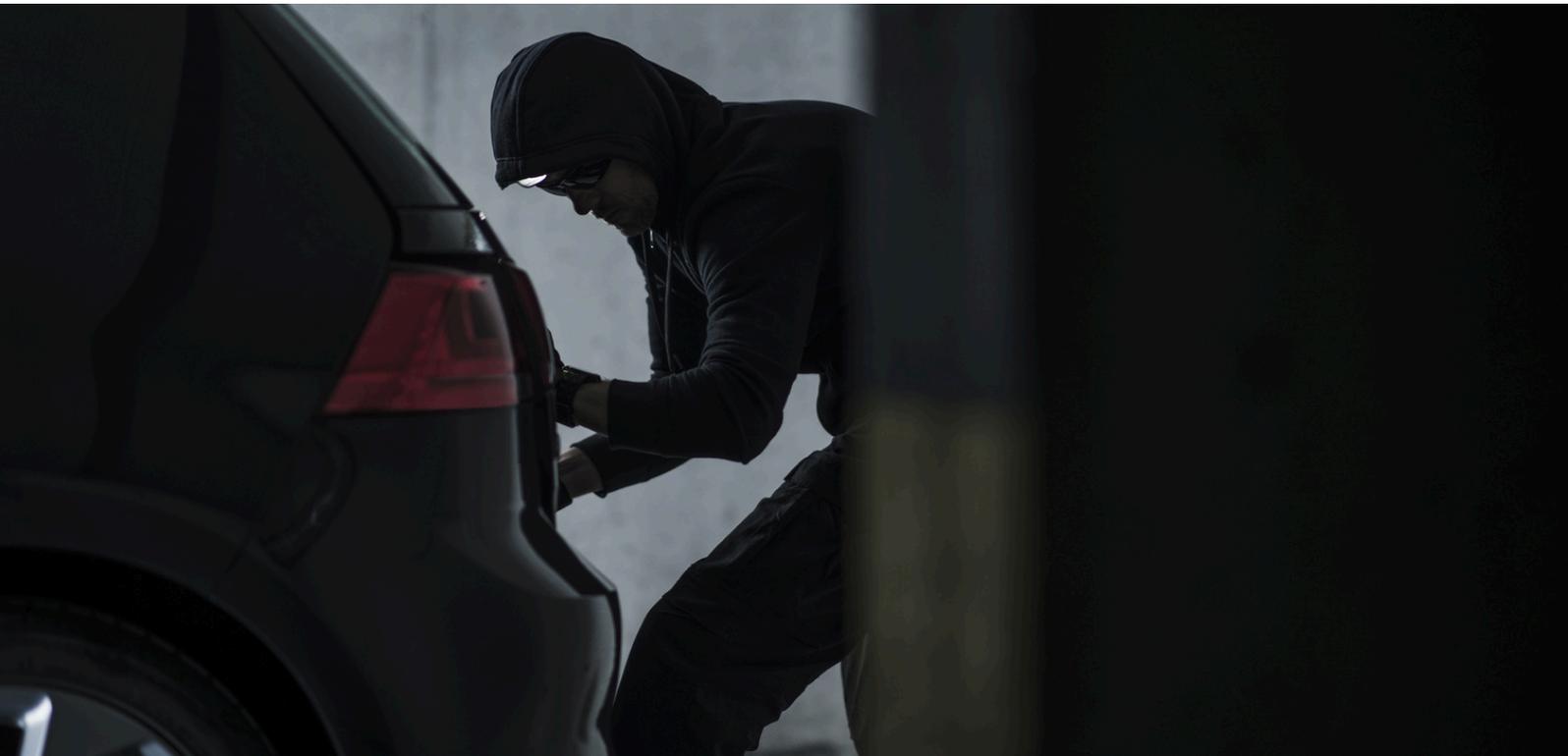
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- Home Entry Targeting Keys – Thieves may enter occupied or unoccupied homes to find the keys to vehicles, especially for high-end cars such as Mercedes or Range Rover. Once found, they can easily steal your vehicle.
- Carjacking – Carjacking involves violently stealing an occupied car. Carjackings often occur in parking lots, commercial areas, streets, and intersections. Carjackers may bump your vehicle to stage a collision and distract you. They may also block your vehicle at a busy street or intersection to prevent escape. They may approach you at a parking lot as you move toward or enter your vehicle.



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# Auto-Theft Prevention

To prevent your vehicle from being stolen, follow the tips listed below:

- Park in a garage. Box your targeted vehicle behind other vehicles. Lock the garage door.
- Do not leave running vehicles unattended. Lock car doors and close windows.
- Do not leave keys by the front door of your house. Thieves may break into your house to get your car keys. Store keys away from your vehicle.
- Avoid keeping valuables or packages in the car. Hide them or put them in the trunk.
- Cover or block your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).
- Install security cameras outside of your house.
- Use theft preventive devices such as a steering wheel lock, automatic engine shut-off, and tracking device.
- Use aftermarket products like a GPS tracker, remote vehicle shut-off devices and on-board data port locks to prevent cloning of keys.

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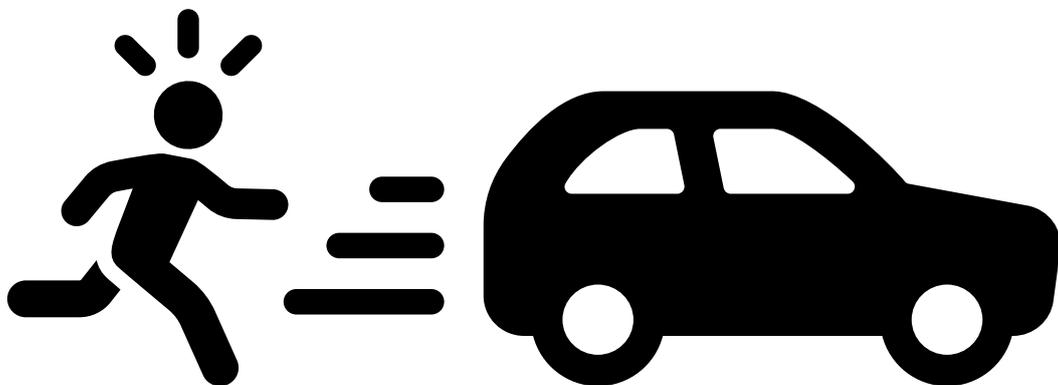
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# Carjacking Prevention

To prevent your car from being carjacked:

- Park in well-lit areas and near building doors.
- Reverse your vehicle into the parking space to allow for a better view of the surroundings.
- Keep car doors locked.
- Install dash cams and GPS trackers.
- Be aware of vehicles and people following you.
- A carjacker may fake a collision to steal your car. Notice how many people are in the other car and pull over to a safe place.
- If you face a carjacking, follow the demands of the attacker, do not fight or make sudden movements. Note the physical appearance of the suspects, including height, weight, gender, speech/accent, clothing, and vehicles they arrived in. Contact the police as soon as possible and provide the last known direction of travel of the vehicle.





# Resources

- Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC)  
<https://www.omvic.ca/>
- Halton Police Auto Theft:  
<https://www.haltonpolice.ca/en/staying-safe/auto-theft.aspx>
- Peel Police Protecting Yourself and Your Property:  
<https://www.peelpolice.ca/en/safety-tips/protecting-yourself-and-your-property.aspx>

