

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- *Placing items in the glove box or under the seat helps, but many thieves will check these areas if they think you are hiding items.*
- *For items in your vehicle, consider placing them in a small gym bag, and locking them in the trunk of your vehicle when parked. When you return to your vehicle, remove your gym bag from the trunk and your items will be available to you.*
- *All parcels and shopping bags should be locked in the trunk of your vehicle. Lock the trunk release when you park your car. Thieves will break a window in your vehicle, press the trunk release and check for items of value in your trunk..*

**** REMEMBER, IF IT'S NOT THERE, THEY CAN'T STEAL IT! ****

For more information on crime prevention, scan the following QR barcode matrix on your smart phone or visit our website at: www.torontopolice.on.ca/crimeprevention/



- ◆ In an emergency: **CALL 9-1-1**
- ◆ To report a crime to the Toronto Police Service that is not an emergency, call: **(416) 808-2222**
- ◆ To report a crime anonymously, call Crime Stoppers at: **1-800-222-8477(TIPS)** or online at: www.crimestoppers.com



For more information about auto crimes or other crime prevention topics, please contact the local Crime Prevention Officer at your local Police Division.



Stay connected to the Divisional Policing Support Unit by finding us on Facebook.



40 College Street
Toronto, ON
M5G 2J3
(SP 919-E; rev: 2015/06)



Auto Crimes

Reduce the risk.
Reduce the opportunity.



WHY VEHICLES ARE STOLEN

TO SELL THE VEHICLE OR PARTS

Often thieves will take your car out of the Province or Country. Identification numbers may be altered or removed, ownership certificates forged, parts sold or the vehicle repainted.

FOR TRANSPORTATION

Thieves will use your vehicle to get where they want to go and later abandon the vehicle. They may just drive it around to gain 'status' with their friends.

TO COMMIT OTHER CRIMES

Vehicles are stolen and used in other crimes such as robberies, break and enters, drug dealing or drive-by shootings.

FOR VEHICLE CLONING

Vehicles are stolen, given a fraudulent identification number and then sold to unsuspecting persons who are defrauded of their money. Fraudulent vehicles will be located and seized by the Police.



HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK OF VEHICLE THEFT

PARKING YOUR VEHICLE

Turn ignition off and TAKE the keys with you. A vehicle left running is an open invitation to thieves. Park in a well-lit attended area, if possible. Close and lock all doors and windows. Turn your wheels to the side to make it harder to tow.

AT HOME

If you have a garage, use it and lock it. Install a motion sensor light to illuminate your vehicles and/or garage area.

If you have a front-wheel drive vehicle park front end first.

Back in rear-wheel drive vehicles.

Always set the emergency brake.

Do not leave the ownership or insurance cards in the vehicle when unattended.

OTHER IMPORTANT TIPS

Never hide a spare key in the vehicle, thieves know where to look for it.

Be aware of your surroundings while driving and drive with your doors locked.

Be aware when purchasing a vehicle. If the deal sounds too good to be true...it probably is!

IF YOUR VEHICLE IS STOLEN...

Report the theft to the police immediately.

If your car or accessories are stolen, the police will need specific information to identify the car, parts and accessories.

YOU SHOULD REPORT THE FOLLOWING:

Year, make, model, and colour(s) of the vehicle, licence plate number, vehicle Identification number (VIN), serial numbers of all special equipment, special markings - dents, scratches, other damage.

TIPS TO PREVENT THEFTS FROM YOUR VEHICLE

REMOVE ALL VALUABLES

Never leave ANYTHING on display when you leave your vehicle. Even loose change, cigarettes, cigarette lighters, sunglasses, CD's, cell phones, stereos, cameras, and clothing, if it is visible, they will steal it.

REMOVE PORTABLE ACCESSORIES

Removing stereo face plates and locking them in the trunk or taking them with you, will deter thieves.

GET AN ALARM INSTALLED

Alarms can deter thieves not only from stealing items from your vehicle, but also from stealing your vehicle. Even if you have an alarm installed NEVER leave anything in your vehicle. Thieves can smash a window, reach in grab an item and be gone in seconds, before your alarm is even activated. Caution is needed that you do not set your alarm to sensitive. Storms, wind, large trucks passing by your vehicle can set it off.

Vehicle crime can happen to anyone – any vehicle is susceptible!

Taking the following precautions will help prevent theft from your vehicle:

Park in well-lit areas at night;

Remove the ignition key and activate the steering lock; and

Lock your doors and close all windows.