



Safety Tips for the Auto Burglary

The Oak Ridge Police Department would like to remind everyone about the importance of locking and removing valuables from vehicles that are parked outside. Potential thieves often look for unlocked vehicles or vehicles that have valuables in plain sight when searching for someone to victimize. Here are a few safety tips we may need to be reminded of this season:

Auto Burglary Prevention Tips

- 1) **Remove Visible Items** - If you leave items visible in your car, you are a target. Be aware that someone may be watching as you put a wallet, purse, or cell phone under your seat, especially at a gym. Take these with you or secure them in your trunk.
- 2) **Lock the Doors!** - Lock your vehicle and take your keys, even for quick errands. Lock the trunk, hatchback or tailgate to block access into the vehicle. Close all windows, including vent or wing windows and sunroofs.
- 3) **Vehicle Alarms** - Buy an alarm and use it! Many people believe that alarms no longer make a difference; however, they do remain an effective deterrent to a burglar. **Remember criminals are looking for the easy target.**
- 4) **Vehicle Registration** - Black out the address on your registration and photocopy it. Keep the copy, not the original, in your car. You must have the registration available to present to a police officer upon request.
- 5) **Do not attach personal information to your keys** - If your keys are stolen, having your personal information or vehicle license number attached only compounds the problem. A criminal now may have access to your home, automobile or office.
- 6) **Personal Mail** - Do not leave outgoing or incoming mail in your car, especially where visible. This has your name and address on it.
- 7) **Garage Door Opener** - Avoid leaving this in your car if possible.

- 8) **Parking at Home** - At home, park in your garage if you have one. Lock your car and all garage doors. Park in a well-lit area. Check to see that your vehicle is visible from pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Remember you can report any suspicious activities anonymously. If you see suspicious activity, please report it to the police department; call the non-emergency number at 425-4399.

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