



## Vehicle Burglary - A Crime of Opportunity

Vehicle Burglary is most often a crime of opportunity. Our own inattentiveness is often causing our vehicles to be broken into as well as stolen; however, you can minimize your chances of being a victim by taking away the opportunity.

### Here are some tips to remember:

- **LOCK** your vehicle and take the keys with you
- **PARK** carefully in well lit areas
- **USE** anti-theft devices
- **CLEAN** it out; do not leave anything in it
- **REMOVE** the garage door opener
- **UTILIZE** your garage to park in, if possible
- **MARK** it; use an engraver to mark property
- **REPORT** suspicious activity or persons to the Police Department at 217-483-2453; for crimes in progress call 9-1-1.

### Lock up:

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief.
- Lock up when you leave your car, and take the keys with you.
- Lock the trunk or tailgate.
- Close all windows. Professional thieves have tools that unlock cars through the smallest openings.
- Be sure vent or wind-wing windows are shut tight and locked.
- Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini-mall.
- At night, park in well-lit areas with lots of people around when out running errands.
- Turn wheels sharply toward the curb when parking, this makes it extra difficult for thieves to tow your car.

### Items to avoid leaving in your vehicle and/or view:

- Cell phones and chargers
- Ipods
- Laptops / Tablets
- Purses/briefcases
- Wallets
- Back packs
- Clothing
- CD's
- Cameras
- Sports equipment/tools
- Removable stereos including the removable face plates

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