

Vehicle and Parking Lot Safety Tips



Over 2 million vehicles are stolen each year and millions more are the object of car break-ins and vandalism.

How do thieves do it?

Thieves will target vehicles that are parked in dark places, away from cameras or pedestrian activity. They will peer into a vehicle and look for items left out in the open, such as portable navigation systems, cell phones, wallets, purses, and back packs. Two out of three cars usually have something of value left out in the open!

A vehicle can be entered in seconds. The criminal uses a screwdriver or similar tool and pops it into the door handle or right below the lock. Or the more amateur will simply break a window. Once inside the vehicle, the criminal can open the trunk or truck bed and take any valuables. **It literally takes seconds!**

What can you do?

- Park in well-lit and populated areas, if possible.
- Park with your wheels turned at an angle to prevent unauthorized towing.
- Remove ALL valuables from the inside of your car, including check books, electronics, wallets, briefcases, etc.
- Keep the inside of your vehicle clean; a criminal may try to break in to sift through your vehicle's contents
- Disconnect electronic devices and place them out of sight.

- Never place valuables in your trunk while in a parking area – the criminal will observe this; if you need to use your trunk, transfer valuables BEFORE you get to your destination.
- LOCK your doors, close your windows tight and close your sunroof
- Activate your alarm
- Keep your keys with you
- NEVER leave a vehicle running while unattended
- When giving your keys to a valet, only give them your ignition key or starter “fob”; keep your home keys WITH YOU!
- Consider installing LO-JAC, On-Star, or similar system that can track your vehicle and shut it down in the event it is stolen
- Report ALL suspicious persons or activity – people walking around looking into vehicles; people loitering in parking lots

What happens when your vehicle is stolen or vandalized?

- *Immediately call law enforcement and report the incident*
- *Report the incident to your insurance company*
- *Make sure you know your license plate or tag number*
- *Make sure your vehicles VIN or vehicle identification number is quickly available to you if your vehicle is stolen (that’s why keeping your insurance and registration card with you is helpful)*



For more information about Crime Prevention, contact the Fayetteville State University Department of Police and Public Safety at 910-672-1775 or visit:

<https://www.uncfsu.edu/life-fsu/our-campus/campus-safety/crime-prevention>

For more information on this topic, you may visit:

www.autotheft.com
www.ncpc.org

www.autothiefs.com
www.crimepreventiontips.org