



TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR VEHICLES AND PROPERTY SAFE

Theft from Vehicles

One of the most common types of theft is from a vehicle. Theft from a vehicle is a crime of opportunity. Criminals capitalize on the ease of accessibility to valuables. Typically criminals won't waste their time breaking into a vehicle if you take away the availability.



In the last few years there has been a steady increase in thefts, especially from vehicles. In the Town of Farmville this particularly occurs in areas in and around student housing. Campus, shopping areas, restaurants, bars, and your own home are common targets to break into a vehicle. Cars parked in large lots on or off campus and left unattended for long periods are often targeted. If you plan on parking in a neighborhood or other area that is known for a lot of visitors, keep in mind that criminals are aware of these areas too. If possible take valuables out of your car with you or leave them at home before going out. If you must bring a valuable item with you and need to leave it in your car, make sure it is securely stored out of sight. Here are some helpful reminders to prevent you from becoming a victim of theft:

Keep Valuables Out of View

By keeping valuables out of view the likelihood of becoming a victim of theft decreases greatly. Don't leave cell phones, briefcases, suitcases, electronics (iPods, laptops, tablets, etc.), or weapons in your car in plain sight. Take them with you; secure them out of sight or leave them at home.



Protect Your GPS and Other Electronics

Your GPS tells you where you need to go and helps keep you from getting lost. It also tells criminals that you have electronic devices in your vehicle. Your vehicle instantly becomes a target when a device can be seen sitting on top of the dash or suctioned to the windshield. Many GPS devices are mounted in the dashboard of a vehicle, many are not. We implore anyone who has a portable GPS to secure it along with any other items of value, or take it with you. No effort or time is necessary to break a window and take your valuables off of the dash, seat or windshield. An easy target is hard for a criminal to pass up.



Use Your Trunk

The trunk of a car is a secure and easy place to hide valuables that must be left in the vehicle. Secure valuables in the trunk or in a locked glove compartment. Hiding items under seats is better than leaving them in plain view, but still leaves you vulnerable. When you are out shopping, especially during the holidays put your bags or packages in the trunk, not on the passenger seat or floor.



Secure Your Vehicle's Audio System

A good sound system or portable DVD player makes a road trip or short dash across town more enjoyable. Many parents with young children have found that road trips before DVD players in a vehicle seem unimaginable. These devices have made trips easier and have enabled individuals to travel more frequently and longer. They have also become a main target and telltale sign for thieves to the presence of expensive upgrades to a vehicle. If you can remove your stereo system's faceplate, DVD player, or any other portion of the audio system and take it with you, or lock it in your trunk, do so; and don't forget to do the same with your CDs, DVDs, tapes, or Mp3 device. Don't let your source of enjoyment become some else's when it could have been prevented.

LOCK YOUR CAR!!

We can't emphasize this enough. The easiest way for a thief to enter your vehicle is if it is not locked. Keep your doors locked and windows up when your vehicle is not in use. Check your vehicle to make sure it is locked before you leave it.



REMEMBER: Criminals are generally not patient and look for the easiest opportunity for crime. The harder you make it for a criminal to steal your valuables, the less likely you are to become a victim of theft.