

Vehicle Theft Prevention

Lock Out Auto Crime!

Secure Your Vehicle Night and Day. Theft from auto is a crime of opportunity and is preventable. Take the time to remove items from your vehicle and you will avoid the cost and time spent on vehicle repairs and replacement of stolen items. If you must leave something in your vehicle, make sure it's locked up in your trunk before you arrive at your destination or take it with you.

GPS (Global Positioning Systems) provide an easy target for thieves. A vehicle's window can be smashed and a GPS stolen in less than 30 seconds. Your GPS is usually programmed with your home address and if the garage door opener is also stolen from your vehicle, the thieves have easy access to your home. Opt for a garage door opener that fits on your key ring instead of one that clips on your visor.

If your vehicle has been broken into, always call the Police to report it, including the vehicle details: make, model, year, colour, address of where the vehicle was located, time you left the vehicle, and what was stolen.

If your vehicle was parked in Red Deer, AB

Call the Red Deer RCMP non-emergency line at (403) 343-5575.

License Plate Theft

License plate theft is a growing concern, plates are stolen and can be put on another vehicle which is used to commit other crimes. Check your plates (front & back) daily, if your plates are missing or if they have been replaced with other plates, call the RCMP. If one of your plates has been stolen, the Police will give you a file number, take the file number along with your insurance document and identification to an Alberta vehicle registry office. They will provide you with a new set of license plates and new insurance documents for a fee.

Auto Theft Info & Tips

Did you know...

...that theft from vehicles is linked to identity theft?

After cracking an identity theft ring Coquitlam RCMP investigators found that one out of three of the stolen identity documents like insurance papers, driver's licenses and passports being used to create fraudulent ID could be traced back to vehicle theft files.

...that leaving your car doors unlocked may attract criminal attention to your neighbourhood?

Vehicle break-ins are often crimes of opportunity. Once criminals know there are unlocked vehicles in an area, they will keep coming back. Your unlocked vehicle could be putting your neighbours and their property at risk. Be a good neighbour, don't give thieves a reason to visit your neighbourhood.

Do...

- Lock your doors. Even if you don't have anything valuable in your car. This will discourage thieves looking for easy targets. It will also deter those who would go into an unlocked car to look for a trunk or hood release button in order to steal parts or the contents of the trunk.
- Park in your garage if you have one, and lock both your vehicle and your garage.
- Park in a well-lit area where "natural surveillance" will serve as a deterrence.

Don't...

- Leave your garage opener, house/business keys or vehicle registration papers in your vehicle. If thieves stole these items, they could use them to commit other crimes including identity theft or break & enter.
- Leave briefcases, purses and backpacks that may contain wallets, identification, laptops, cell phones and other valuables unattended in your vehicle. Not even for a moment. Not even locked in your trunk or glove box. You never know when a criminal is around looking for an opportunity. But you can rest assured that thieves know to check the trunk and glove box if they don't see anything out in the open.

If you see something, say something!

Public safety is everyone's responsibility—and it's easy. The best way to do your part for public safety is to get connected to your neighbourhood, pay attention to what is going on around you and report any criminal or suspicious activity to the police.

Theft from and of Vehicles

RCMP would like to provide the public with the following tips and best practices in an attempt to prevent theft of Motor Vehicles or Theft from Motor Vehicles.



Best Practices:

- **Do not leave any property in your vehicle** or expect to find it gone when you return later. Typical items stolen from vehicles include purses, wallets, credit cards, GPS units, passports, house keys, cash, clothing and sunglasses.
- **Do not leave any personal identification** in an unattended vehicle or you could become a victim of identity theft. (*includes drivers licence, financial documents, credit/debit information or any mail that could identify who you are*) Often, the thieves are taking only identification and credit cards from purses, but leave the purse behind and the owner may not realize a theft has occurred until much later. Once armed with a few cards, thieves are able to then apply for, and receive loans in your name, additional credit cards, and cash advances. If you don't notice the theft for a number of days, the damage done could be extensive.
- **Invest in a good anti-theft device**, particularly a passive immobilizer. Use a steering wheel lock every time you park your vehicle.
- **Do not set the 'Home' function on your GPS device** to your home address, but rather to a nearby intersection, thereby not allowing the suspects to know exactly where you live.

- **Do not keep your garage door opener in your vehicle** along with any identifying information as this could result in directing the suspects directly to your residence.
- Always **wait for an automatic gate to close behind you** when entering or leaving a controlled parking area.
- **Do not keep spare keys to your vehicle in the vehicle.** Police see this happen all the time. What would have been the theft of some change in the ashtray, turns into a theft of a vehicle.
- If you see **any suspicious persons or activities near a vehicle, call the police immediately.** Let the police determine if it's a crime in progress.
- **Park in open, visible areas.** Avoid parking behind fences and hedges.
- At home, **light your driveway at night.** Elsewhere, park in well lit areas near pedestrian traffic.
- **Engrave your stereo and other on-board valuables with your Driver's License number.** This allows any officer that locates your stolen items to seize them and arrest the person in possession of them.
- When fueling your vehicle, **ensure that you have your vehicle's key with you** at all times and **lock your vehicle** when you go in to pay.

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