

# Vehicle Crime and Safety Information

Information provided by Safe Streets

If you have any questions, please call Safe Streets at 266-4606

## National Car Theft Facts:

- Every 33 seconds a car is stolen.
- More than a million cars are stolen a year.
- 40% have keys in the ignition.
- 80% are unlocked.
- Most are stolen by young opportunists.

## Protecting Your Vehicle and Belongings:

Nothing is more frustrating than going to get in your car, only to find the window smashed and your belongings gone.

There are steps you can take to reduce the likelihood of this happening to you.

First of all, remove all valuables from sight. A car burglar typically walks through a parking area peering into cars just looking for something of interest to him or her. If you have a removable (pullout) stereo or faceplate, that is ideal! If not, at least remove accessories that may draw attention to the stereo. (CDs, tapes, remotes, etc.) Also, remove cell phones, briefcases, and duffle bags. Do not leave loose change in the cup holder or ash tray - that may attract a thief.

## License plates:

Next time you go to a hardware store, purchase a couple of "tamper resistant bolts." Replace the screws that secure your license plate to your car with these. This will slow down anyone trying to steal your plate because they will need a special tool and will likely just move to the next car. In addition, when you put your next registration sticker on your vehicle, remove the old ones layered underneath. If your sticker is securely adhered to the metal plate and someone tries to peel it off it will pull apart and void the sticker. If you have layered the sticker already, you may want to use a razor blade and carve an "X" through the sticker. This will discourage a thief who will see the sticker coming off in four little parts if they try to remove it.

## To keep your car from becoming a statistic:

- Always lock all doors.
- Roll windows up tight.
- Park in heavily traveled areas.
- Don't hide spare keys-they can be found.
- Don't think it can't happen to you-act before, not after the crime.

While you've been reading this information, 10 cars were stolen in this country. They were stolen because the opportunity was there. If you have taken these protective measures, you may deter the theft of your car and save yourself a lot of money and inconvenience!