

PREVENTING THEFT OF AND FROM VEHICLES



Always close windows, lock doors, hide valuables, take keys, and remain aware of your surroundings



Vehicle-related theft is a common crime that can take place anywhere and at any time, and may involve the taking of valuables, parts or accessories, or the entire vehicle. Thieves may either have a vehicle in mind, or may simply hit an area and go from one car to another in search of a target. Taking an extra few minutes to protect your vehicle can make it less attractive to thieves.

SECURE VEHICLE AND VALUABLES

Wind up the windows completely, lock the doors, and be sure to take your keys after parking anywhere, including your home's driveway.

Never leave your car running, even if you are just dashing back into the house for something you forgot, or "running in and out" of a store.

If you can't take your valuables with you, store them in the glove box, center console, or trunk where they are not in plain view. Do not simply cover them with a blanket or towel as this can signal to thieves that a valuable is underneath.

Install an antitheft system or device to make vehicle more difficult to steal or easier to trace and recover.

CONSIDER WHERE YOU PARK, BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

When selecting a parking spot, aim for one that is in a well-lit and well-traveled area, and not concealed by such things as a wall, foliage, or large vehicles that can serve as a hiding area for thieves to break in, grab valuables or parts, and escape unnoticed.

Pay close attention to your surroundings, and be alert for individuals who are lingering, walking around a parking lot, or peering into cars. If you observe someone behaving suspiciously, immediately call law enforcement.

IF YOUR VEHICLE IS STOLEN OR BROKEN INTO

Immediately file a report with law enforcement, your auto insurance, and finance or leasing company.

Be ready to provide a description of your vehicle, location of keys, and names of everyone who had access to the vehicle.

Also notify law enforcement if your vehicle is broken into and items are stolen, or if it was vandalized by someone trying to gain access or steal a part or accessory. Personal items in a vehicle are not typically covered by insurance, however a report with law enforcement will help in the event your valuables or parts are recovered. If theft included credit cards, call banks to freeze accounts.



Contact Us

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This leaflet is part of a series of public safety-related materials co-created by City of Diamond Bar and L.A. County Sheriff's Department and available on the City website for viewing, downloading, and sharing.

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