



Vehicle Prowl and Theft Prevention:

Vehicle prowls are the theft of property from a motor vehicle. Most are crimes of opportunity through unlocked doors and open windows where victims usually encounter expensive vehicle damage – especially to their windows, doors and locks.

Large parking locations such as shopping centers among others are prime targets for a prowler since multiple vehicles can be hit in a short time span. Help law enforcement deter theft in your community by making your vehicles a less attractive target for would-be burglars.

To avoid being a car prowl target:

- Use a garage or secure location whenever possible.
- Park in well-lit areas where your car can be seen and avoid isolated areas.
- Avoid isolated areas. Park near locations frequently used by pedestrians.
- If you hear something suspicious (shattering glass) or see someone looking into vehicles, call 911.
- Take your keys out of the vehicle.
- Roll up the windows, including sun-roofs and lock all doors.
- Secure the trunk, hatches, bed-mounted tool boxes, and canopies.
- Activate your alarm.
- If you have a removable car stereo, remove it.
- Install anti-theft devices, such as a steering wheel locking device.
- Install an alarm system and/or a vehicle tracking system.



- Don't leave packages, bags of any kind visible on the seats or floor of your car. Use the trunk. "Put Your Junk in the Trunk."
- If you take packages to your car trunk and want to go back to the mall, move your car. Most newer vehicles have a trunk release inside the car (in the glove box or by the driver). If the thief sees something that you have just purchased that he wants, he can easily break a window and open your trunk.
- Have a locking fuel cap.
- Never leave a vehicle running unattended.
- Don't leave your garage door opener in your vehicle when parked in front of your house.
- All items with personal information on them should be taken out of the vehicle.

ITEMS MOST OFTEN TARGETED BY THIEVES

* Purses * Back packs * Wallets * Briefcases * Mail and legal documents * Laptops * Personal electronics * Cell phones * CDs * Sunglasses * Car audio/video equipment * Retail purchases * Clothing * Golf bags * Sporting gear * Medicines * Garage door openers * GPS Units.