

# VEHICLE PROWL 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 like shopping centers, housing communities, parks and schools are prime targets for a prowler since multiple vehicles can be hit in a short time span. Also, prowlers know the odds are good that someone will leave a door unlocked, a window down or keys in the ignition.

Unfortunately, vehicle prowls are very common. Luckily, they are preventable. Use these easy and inexpensive tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle prowl:

## PARKING & SECURING YOUR VEHICLE:

- ◇ Use a garage or secure location whenever possible.
- ◇ Park in well-lit areas where your car can be seen.
- ◇ Avoid isolated areas. Park near locations frequently used by pedestrians.
- ◇ If you hear something suspicious (shattering glass) or see someone looking into vehicles, call 9-1-1.
- ◇ Roll up the windows and lock all doors.
- ◇ Secure the trunk, hatches, bed-mounted tool boxes, and canopies.
- ◇ Activate your alarm.
- ◇ Install anti-theft devices.

## REMOVE THESE ITEMS:

- ◇ Cameras
- ◇ CD player and CD's
- ◇ Cell phones
- ◇ Checkbooks
- ◇ Clothing
- ◇ Credit/debit, gift cards
- ◇ Day planner
- ◇ Electronic devices
- ◇ Garage door opener
- ◇ GPS unit
- ◇ Jewelry
- ◇ Keys
- ◇ Laptop
- ◇ Luggage or bags
- ◇ Mail
- ◇ Purses
- ◇ Receipts/statements
- ◇ Store bags or packages
- ◇ Tools
- ◇ Vehicle insurance, title and registration information
- ◇ Wallets

## ANTI-THEFT DEVICES:

- ◇ Steering wheel locking devices are easy to install and inexpensive.
- ◇ Car alarms are convenient and effective - Especially if they disable the vehicle's starter when activated.
- ◇ Install switches to interrupt the fuel supply or electrical systems.
- ◇ Locking gas caps deters fuel from being siphoned.

For emergencies, call 911



## TIPS

Lock your doors & Windows.  
Prowls are crimes of opportunity!

Remove your personal property.  
Take away the likelihood of being a victim.

Use anti-theft devices.  
Utilize visual deterrents.