



ENTERING AUTO THEFT PREVENTION



Don't leave anything visible in your vehicle that would interest anyone. Do not even leave change that can be seen from the outside of your car. Many of our entering autos are juveniles looking for anything they can get. Spare change is a hot commodity to these folks.

Do not leave the plug in GPS, iPod, etc in your vehicle when you exit. Place everything related to these items in a glove box, or utility compartment when exiting your vehicle. Place compact discs in the same containers as well. These items are called "targets of opportunity". I walk past your car and see the new iPod that I cannot afford because I am a no good thief. And, because I am a no good thief, I take yours. Now you are out one iPod, and probably one car window, and anything else I can get my no good thieving hands on while inside your car. If you can walk past your car, look inside and see NOTHING but floor mats and seats GOOD JOB. You have given nothing to a thief.

Don't leave sunglasses in those handy clips on the sun visors. Many sunglasses cost well over \$100 these days. A juvenile thief would think nothing of breaking into a vehicle only for a pair of "cool" sunglasses. Place these in your glove box upon exiting your vehicle.

If your car stereo came with a removable face, then use it. It's there for a reason. It takes no time to remove. If a thief wants the stereo, it does them no good without the face.

LOCK YOUR DOORS! Even in my garage, I lock my doors. Many of our entering autos are from vehicles with no forced entry to them. People walk parking lots, or neighborhoods, and try door handles. If they are unlocked (and no alarm sounds) then they help themselves to whatever they want. Don't make it easy for thieves. In most cases, unless the theft is obvious, it could be days or weeks until you realize you have been victimized.

If you have a habit of traveling with firearms, please do not leave them in your vehicle. Get in the habit of taking them in, and out of your vehicle each and every time. Having your vehicle broken in to is a horrible thing which leaves you feeling very violated and victimized. The one thing that would make it even worse is having your vehicle broken in to and now your registered firearm is in the hands of a criminal.

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