

# VEHICLE BURGLARIES

HELP STOP THEM



## Don't Become a Victim

Auto burglary, like all crime prevention involves limiting the criminal's ability and opportunity to commit the crime. With very little time and effort, you can make a huge difference in your vulnerability to vehicle burglary.

*The thieves walking or driving around the neighborhoods are looking for vehicles with unlocked doors and unsecured windows. They are looking for the vehicles that have valuables in plain sight. It is fast and easy to smash open a window and take the valuable items lying in plain sight within a vehicle. It is even easier if that vehicle is not secured.*



## Some simple tips to help stop vehicle burglaries:

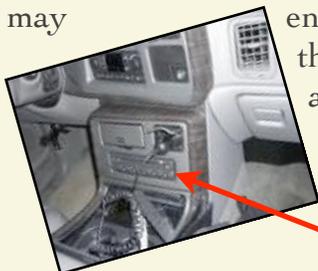
**Don't leave valuables in your car.** That sounds like "common sense", but drivers/passengers do leave items of value in plain view every day. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target.

**If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously.**

This includes packages, backpacks, gym bags, GPS units, cell phones, MP3 players, and so forth. Someone may be watching when you put items under a seat or throw something over them. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for trunk-packing, and can break into your car the minute you're out of sight. One reason SUVs and pickups are common auto-burglary targets is because they don't have a "trunk" to hold valuables — the driver/passenger generally just "hides" their valuables "out of sight". The thieves know this, and do check glove compartments, behind seats, and under seats. It only takes a few seconds to check all the "usual" hiding places.



**Leave no trace.** Don't leave **any** "sign" that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle, such as docking stations or connector cables. Leave nothing in "plain sight" that might make your vehicle worth "investigating" by a thief; not even loose coins or a CD. Just leaving an empty docking station in plain sight, even if you've taken the high dollar component with you, may end up costing you hundreds of dollars to replace a broken window because the thief wanted to check your car for "hidden" valuables. Very few auto break-ins are "random" — the thieves see "something" in plain sight that's valuable, or hints of possible hidden valuables.



*power cord left plugged in says there's something of value here.....*

**Try to park in busy, well-lighted areas.**

**Lock ALL your vehicle's doors** even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every year, we have items stolen from unlocked vehicles where the owner was only going to be gone "just for a second". It only takes seconds to steal your stuff! It's not at all uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles and check vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked. Don't leave **any** window open or even cracked open, including vent/wing windows and sunroofs.

**Set any alarm or anti-theft device.** If you have one, use it! Many people believe that car-alarms no longer make a difference, but they can be an effective deterrent to an auto-burglar, who most often chooses the **easiest** target. If they have two cars to choose from, one with an alarm and one without, they will likely burglarize the one without (*unless you've left out valuables just too good to ignore!*) Don't think your dark tinted windows will hide your valuables. Thieves often use flashlights to see through tint, and after-market tint is handy to keep all the broken glass in one "sheet" when they break out your window (*and toss the broken window into your back seat or passenger seat to hide the evidence of the break-in from passersby*).



**Record the serial numbers of any items you regularly have in your vehicle.**

### How can a vehicle burglary lead to a residential burglary?

1. **Vehicle Registration** - Black out the address on your registration and photocopy it. Keep the copy, not the original, in your car. Keep a copy with the name and address (per the vehicle code) with you when operating the vehicle.
2. **Mail** - Do not leave outgoing or incoming mail in your car, especially where visible.
3. **Garage Door Openers** - Avoid leaving this in your car if possible. If you must keep it in your car, remove it from sight or lock it in your glove box.
4. **Never leave keys in your car.**

### What to do if something is stolen out of your car

As soon as you notice something's stolen (*or that your car has been broken into*) do not touch/adjust anything in, on, or around the car. As soon as possible, call the police to report the incident.

Don't hesitate to call the Colleyville Police Department (9-1-1) to report ANY suspicious activities, persons or vehicles. Officers cannot be everywhere, and we count on good people to be our "*eyes and ears*" and report suspicious activities as they are occurring. Do your part by taking preventive action and spreading the word.

**You can make a difference!**