



San Dimas Sheriff's Station

Neighborhood Watch News

VEHICLE SECURITY

You can prevent car theft! Most cars are taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily. Protect your car against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions:

Lock Up

- ▶ An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. *Lock up when you leave your car, and take the keys with you.*
- ▶ Lock the trunk or tailgate.
- ▶ Close all windows - professional thieves have tools that unlock cars through the smallest openings.
- ▶ Be sure vent or wind-wing windows are shut tight and locked.
- ▶ When you park the car, remove cellular phones, stereo face-plates and other valuable possessions. Do not leave gift-wrapped packages or cameras lying on the seat. Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.
- ▶ Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini-mall.

Park carefully

- ▶ Don't leave an auto in unattended public parking lots for an extended period. A car is five times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot than from the street or attended lot.
- ▶ Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your car and your home. If you have to leave your keys with a parking attendant, leave only the ignition key.

Operation I.D.

- ▶ With an electric engraver, etch your driver's license number (preceded by the letters "CA") on stereo equipment and other valuable items.
- ▶ Record your vehicle identification number (located on a small metal plate on the dashboard of newer cars) and store it in a safe place.

Keep the vehicle registration in your wallet
or
purse, not in your car.

How to prevent theft of other motor vehicles.

Thefts of motorcycles, boats and trail-bikes are also increasing.

Lock it

- ▶ Make sure all easy-to-carry items like motors, water skis and camping gear are locked up before leaving your vehicle.

Chain it

- ▶ Vehicles carried on trailers should be secured with a strong chain and padlock.
- ▶ When the trailer is not attached to your car, secure it with a heavy chain and lock to a stationary object.