

## Protection Layer No. 5: Crime Prevention Programs

The Neighborhood Watch Program enlists neighbors in a cooperative effort to watch out for each other. Neighbors know your vehicles and your parking habits. They alert you or officers to any suspicious persons or circumstances.

The Mobile Watch Program places citizen volunteers on patrol, adding yet another layer of surveillance to your streets and neighborhoods. Both of these programs discourage thieves, who dislike active and involved citizens that are aware of what is going on in their communities. Call Crime Prevention at 468-3901 for more information on how to get organized.

## Protection Layer No. 6: Hot Tips!!!

Etch your driver's license number in several places under the hood, inside paneling of doors, under carpet in the truck or other conspicuous and inconspicuous places for positive identification by police and also to thwart thieves who may try to strip your car later.

Record your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and store it in someplace safe and accessible. This will come in handy when if you need to report the vehicle stolen and the registration has been taken also.

Have any identification numbers you may have on keys punched out by the dealer or a certified locksmith. Record the numbers first and keep them in a safe place in the event you need du-

## Unified Police Department

To report an auto theft  
that has already oc-  
curred or to report  
suspicious  
activity call  
743-7000

Unified Police Department



## Auto Theft Prevention

# HANG ON TO YOUR WHEELS!



UNIFIED POLICE DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF JAMES M. WINDER

[www.updsl.org](http://www.updsl.org)

743-7000

Across the U.S., thieves steal automobiles at the rate of one every thirty seconds. By the time you finish reading this brochure, yours could disappear too, if you haven't taken the necessary precautions. Do you drive a trendy car? Cars popular with local drivers also attract thieves. Honda Accords, Toyota Camrys, SUV's, Jeep Cherokee's and trucks top the list of most stolen. Accessories like fancy custom wheels also quietly slip away over a million times a year.

"Chop Shops" make a dark-side living by dismantling stolen cars and selling their parts. Crooks re-title their stolen cars and sell them off with newly inscribed VIN numbers. Other times they use the stolen car to commit other crimes and just take it for a joy ride.



"Layers of protection" provide you with the best defense. Thieves expect to get the job done fast, averaging only 90 seconds to steal the car. Frustrating their expectations causes them to look for more vulnerable vehicles. You can subvert their schemes by using any of the following suggestions.



## Protection Layer No. 1: Common

Lock your car in the garage everywhere you go. This includes locking it in the garage at home, locking the garage door, locking the door from the garage to the house, and locking the car itself!

Never leave your keys in an unattended car, not even in the winter to let it warm up, or to "run" into the convenience store.

Park smart, in an attended lot or on a busy street. At night park in well-lighted areas. Turn wheels in toward the curb and always set the parking brake hard, even when the car is on level ground.



Sophisticated burglars use glass hammers which can shatter glass without setting off many alarms, unless you install a glass sensor or microphone inside the

## Protection Layer No. 2: A Visible Anti-Theft Device

A steering wheel locking bar buys time. Although thieves can pull the lock mechanism out or cut the steering wheel rim, they will probably look elsewhere for an easier target. Installing the device backward, while inconvenient for you, also deters a thief with a hammer puller.

## Protection Layer No. 3: Alarm Systems, Ignition Interrupt Devices, Digital Keypads, & Glass

Make sure a window sticker doesn't announce your type of installed alarm. Some thieves make certain alarm systems their specialty. Be aware that most people don't react to, or investigate, a sounding alarm any longer. Consider installing an ignition interrupt device which disables the starter or shuts off the fuel supply with a separate valve. You can tie this device into remote controls for the door locks or operate it by a hidden switch under the carpet.

## Protection Layer No. 4: A Tracking Device-GPS

More expensive, these hidden radio transmitters send a signal to a private service to locate