



# Vehicle Security

## STRATEGIES FROM CAMPUS COMMUNITY POLICE

[www.uwindsor.ca/police](http://www.uwindsor.ca/police) (519) 253-3000 Emergency- ext. 911 Non-emergencies ext. 1234

Although a professional car thief can defeat most security measures and quickly break into and steal a locked vehicle, many vehicle thefts and break-ins are still carried out by amateurs who take advantage of the carelessness of drivers in leaving vehicles unlocked, valuables in sight, etc. Security conscious drivers lose less than those who are careless. According to the FBI, most cars are stolen because they are easy to steal. Eighty percent of all cars stolen last year were unlocked at the time. And 40 percent actually had the keys in the ignition.

The tips in this section deal with preventing vehicle theft or break-ins, helping to recover a stolen vehicle or property from a vehicle, preventing vandalism, and buying a used vehicle. You can significantly enhance the security of your vehicles by following them.

### Preventing theft or break-ins.

- To prevent theft of the vehicle itself.

- To prevent theft of property from the vehicle

### Recovering a stolen vehicle or property taken from a vehicle.

### Preventing Vandalism

### Buying a used vehicle

Turn your wheels sharply toward the curb when parking on a street.

Use visible anti-theft devices that can be attached to the steering wheel or column, or brake pedal. Use one every time you leave your vehicle unattended. Steering wheel locks are inexpensive and are recommended by some experts to be the most cost-effective theft deterrent on the market today.

Consider having fuel or power cut-off switches installed.

Make sure your vehicle has a locking ignition or steering column and lock it when you park. Consider having your VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) etched on all the windows.

Never leave any contents or valuables in plain sight. Remove cellular phones, audio systems, computers, packages, sport equipment, cameras, purses, etc. Take them with you and don't store them in the vehicle. If you can't easily replace an item, don't leave it anywhere in your vehicle.

Check your vehicle daily for damage or tampering.

Report any suspicious activity to Campus Community Police immediately.

Call Campus Community Police immediately and provide a complete description of the vehicle and any property taken from it, including a license plate. Vehicles should be described by: year, make, model, colour, VIN, insurance company and policy number, license plate number, Province and name of any tracking and locator system installed in the vehicle. Property should be described by type, make, model, serial number, and fair market value.

Etch your driver's license number on all removable valuable items, e.g., audio equipment. Also etch the number on various places on the vehicle itself.

Don't leave your driver's license in the vehicle.

Keep a record of the VIN, license plate number, and insurance information in your wallet or purse. Also be able to provide the information listed above for any property that might be stolen from the vehicle.

Don't leave your vehicle registration in the vehicle.

Consider purchasing a mapping system service for the vehicle that has GPS capability and is a monitored service

Try your best to park in open, well-lit, and populated areas near your destination. Avoid parking near trucks, vans, dumpsters, and other objects that obstruct visibility and provide hiding places. Avoid parking near strangers loitering or sitting in vehicles.

Park in your garage, if you have one. Don't leave your vehicle on the street, in an alley, or on your driveway. If you have to park on a street, avoid dark or isolated areas.

Don't leave your vehicle unattended in a public lot for an extended period time. Check on it regularly.

Install a locking gas tank cap.

Be suspicious of a ridiculously low price or a fresh paint job on a late model vehicle.

Make sure the seller is the owner named on the vehicle title. Don't be afraid to ask to see some photo identification.

Verify past insurance and financing, and current registration and license plate sticker.

Make sure the VIN has not been tampered with and matches the number on the vehicle title.

Obtain both sets of the original keys.