



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Auto Protection

Auto Burglary

Most auto burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Thieves window shop looking for opportune conditions. Whenever there is warm weather, criminal activity will be on the rise. Here are some tips to help protect you from becoming a victim of auto burglary:

Don't leave valuables such as cellular phones, laptops and other electronics visible in your car. Lock valuables in your trunk.

If you have a stereo faceplate, take it with you.

Do lock your car and take the keys.

Do park your car in well lit and traveled locations.

Do activate your car alarm if you have one.

Do report suspicious persons / activity using the yellow emergency call boxes (blue light above) located throughout campus & university parking garages.

Whenever possible, remove face-plates or stereo when you leave your car.

Auto Theft

In the city of Stockton in 2005, there were 585 vehicles stolen because keys were left in them. A significant number of these vehicles were stolen because they were left unattended when being warmed up. Car thieves roam neighborhoods in the early morning hours specifically looking for these unattended vehicles.

It takes only a few seconds for a thief to enter a running vehicle and drive away. The majority of victims say they had only left the vehicle unattended for only few moments.

It is a minor inconvenience to sit in a cold vehicle while waiting for it to warm up; however, it is a MAJOR inconvenience to be a victim of an auto theft.

Don't give a thief the open invitation to steal your vehicle. Please take the extra time and stay with your vehicle while warming it up.

Your vehicle may also be at an extra risk of being stolen if it is a popular model for thieves. In 2010, the top 10 models of stolen vehicles in Stockton were:

- Honda Civic #1**
- Honda Accord #2**
- Toyota Camry #3**
- Ford Truck #4**
- Chevy P/U #5**
- Acura Integra #6**
- Dodge P//U #7**
- Nissan Sentra #8**
- Toyota Truck #9**
- Toyota #10**





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Public Safety recommends the following tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of auto theft:

Never leave your car running or with the keys in the ignition when you are away from your vehicle. Always roll up the windows and lock the vehicle, even if it's in front of your home. Park in busy, well-lit areas. Record your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the windows, doors, fenders, and trunk lid. This will help to discourage thieves from removing and reselling those parts. Copy and keep the VIN in a safe place. Do not leave valuables visible in the vehicle, such as brief cases, purses, back packs, cell phones, etc. Keep vehicle registration in your wallet or purse, not in your vehicle. Public Safety also recommends the use of the following anti-theft devices: Installation of a mechanical locking device commonly called a club, collar, or j-bar that lock to the steering column or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned. When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options, such as interior hood and trunk releases, and locking steering columns and alarm systems. Consider the purchase and installation of a gas cap locking device and an alarm device to activate a siren, horn, or lights; or all three to FRIGHTEN AWAY thieves.

