Vehicle Theft Prevention Tips



Smash-and-grab car break-ins and vehicle theft are on the rise across Canada. If your car or the valuable items in it are stolen, repairing the damage and replacing lost items can be a costly and arduous process. While there is no quaranteed way to prevent this kind of theft, there are steps you can take to make your vehicle a much less appealing target.

Secure your vehicle with the following tips:

- Park your vehicle in a locked or secure garage
- Lock the onboard diagnostic port using a simple device (which can be purchased online) that blocks your vehicle's key fob from being reprogrammed
- Invest in an aftermarket global positioning system (GPS) tracker to assist with recovering the vehicle if it is stolen
- When the vehicle is not in use, place the key fob inside a radio frequency shielding bag or pouch
- Consider purchasing a quality 24-hour video surveillance system, and ensure your cameras are properly placed and functioning
- Always lock your doors and windows after entering or exiting your vehicle
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running, even for a few seconds. Turn off the ignition and take the keys with you.
- Don't hide a spare key in your car or outside your residence
- Don't leave personal identification or valuables in your vehicle
- Remove electronics and other accessories from view when not in your vehicle
- Invest in anti-theft devices:
 - Ignition or fuel kill switches
 - Steering wheel, gearshift, and hood locks
 - Steering column collar
 - Electric alarm

Stay prepared with these precautions in case of theft:

Drop a business card down the panel doors to assist police with identifying the vehicle's registered owner



Record the following information and store it in a safe place:

Year, make, model, and colour of your vehicle

License plate and vehicle identification number (VIN)

Serial numbers for any special equipment

Any dents or scratches that distinguish your vehicle from others

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