

3 Steps: Rules of the Road

Protecting Your Vehicle From Summer Theft

A recent report from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) showed an upward trend in motor vehicle theft for the first time in eight years. Follow these three steps to prevent your vehicle from becoming a target for theft.

01 Identify Possible Threats

There are a variety of items that are attractive to thieves; electronics, gas, metal and even the car itself. Take a look at your car and note if any of the above are easily accessible.

If you drive a high-profile vehicle, you're especially at risk of catalytic converter theft. In many cases, the platinum inside the part can be sold for scrap. Company fleet vehicles and other cars that are parked for extended time periods are also prime targets.

02 Secure Your Vehicle

Always roll up your windows and lock your doors, and activate your security alarm if you have one. If you drive an older model car, consider adding a locking gas cap to prevent siphoning. Watch for gas dripping from the bottom of your vehicle; if a hole has been drilled into the tank, there is a risk of fire should you start the car.

Whether at home or away on vacation, park in a well-lit area, and consider installing motion-sensitive lights around your residence.

03 Keep a Watchful Eye

If you will be out of town and your car will be sitting out, ask your neighbors to keep an eye out for suspicious activity. If you live in an apartment complex, notify the management.

Contact law enforcement if you see suspicious activity around your residence.

Consider hiring a private security company, like Signal 88 Security to monitor your neighborhood, business' parking lot, or apartment complex. Roving patrols can greatly deter criminal behaviors.