

Stay in the driver's seat

Tips for car safety on campus



Between exams, papers, and extracurriculars, college students sometimes forget to secure their cars properly, making them an easy target for thieves and criminals.

Signal 88 Security offers the following suggestions on how to keep your vehicle and its contents safe.



1. Always lock your car doors. Even if you're making multiple trips between your car and residence hall — even if you'll be gone just a minute — a few seconds is all it takes for a thief to strike.

2. Hide anything that could appear valuable to a passerby. Electronics are a common target for smash-and-grab crimes.

3. Don't leave mail, bills, or other sensitive information in view. This could make you an easy target for identity theft.

4. Park in busy, well-lit areas. Thieves will generally prefer breaking into cars in isolated, dark spots.

5. Never leave a purse or wallet unattended inside the car. A thief could gain instant access to your cash or bank cards.

6. If you must keep expensive possessions in your car — for example, if you're moving — secure your goods before arriving at your destination. A thief could be watching you in the parking lot and break in after you leave.

7. Even in hot weather, don't leave car windows cracked when parked out doors. It only takes a small opening for a thief to pry open the window or reach the unlock button.

8. Consider installing a car alarm that will sound in the event of an attempted break-in. Modern car alarms connect with smartphone apps that can alert you, even from across campus or across town.

9. Write down your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), license plate number, and title certificate number. Store them in a safe place. You'll need them if anything should happen to your car.



For emergencies, dial 911 or campus police.

