

# Preventing Auto Theft & Theft From Auto

**Each year thousands of automobile-related thefts are reported in Minneapolis.**

The Minneapolis Police Department has two citywide goals: reducing crime including theft and improving the relationship with the community it serves. Please help us achieve our goals by working to eliminate theft in your community.



What exactly is theft? Though definitions vary, theft a.k.a. larceny can be described as the act of taking property belonging to another with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property.

## **Tips to prevent vehicle-related theft:**

- **Lock your vehicle to reduce opportunity of theft.** Lock doors while driving and upon exiting the vehicle.
- **Do not leave keys in your vehicle.**
- **Do not leave valuables in vehicles.** This includes items such as purses, laptops, iPods, sunglasses, and loose change. Remove face plates of after-market stereos.
- If you must bring valuables, place them in the trunk prior to reaching your destination.
- Do not leave garage door opener in plain view; treat it as a key to your property.
- Bring GPS units inside with you; they could be stolen from the car or glove compartment. Remove the mounting device or wipe off the dashboard to take away evidence that a GPS unit is usually there. Record the make, model and serial number and keep in a safe place.
- Pay attention to unusual behavior in your neighborhood. **Call 911 to report suspicious persons or activity.** These crimes can occur any time; be especially alert to noises such as breaking glass or suspicious people loitering near parked vehicles.
- Close windows when vehicle is parked and avoid having windows wide open when driving.
- Always park in well-lit areas.
- Utilize secure parking. A majority of vehicle-related thefts occur to vehicles parked on the street.
- Use visible deterrents such as the steering wheel bar, also called the "Club," to make a vehicle difficult to steal. If you have an alarm system in your vehicle, use it.
- Do not leave vehicles running unattended. Minneapolis police may issue citations to unattended parked vehicles left running on the street or in the alley.

## **How to report auto theft and theft from auto:**

- Call 911 to report a stolen vehicle, a theft from motor vehicle in progress, or a theft in which evidence has been left behind (e.g., fingerprints, tools, video surveillance).
- Call 311 or 612.673.3000 to make a police report of a theft from motor vehicle in which there is no apparent evidence or to report an abandoned vehicle that may have been involved in a theft.

Contact your Crime Prevention Specialist for additional prevention information. See <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/safe-staff-map.pdf>, or call 311 / 612.673.3000 to locate which Precinct and Sector you reside in.

For further crime prevention resources please visit the SAFE section of the city's website at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/).

