



### Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

1411 Paul Kirkwood Drive • Arden Hills, Minnesota 55112

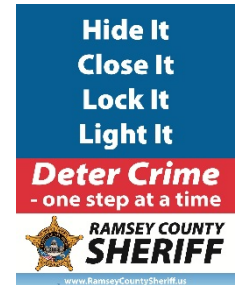
Phone: 651-266-7339 • Fax: 651-266-7306

[www.RamseyCountySheriff.us](http://www.RamseyCountySheriff.us)

## Theft from Auto Prevention

Theft from vehicles occur on every day of the week and at all hours of the day. A theft from your vehicles can occur when you least expect it: dropping the kids off at day care, in busy parking lots, and in "secure" underground parking lots.

Like, burglary, criminals are often looking for an easy opportunity and valuables left in plain view. Items that are commonly stolen from vehicles include: GPS units, purses, briefcases/bags, laptop computers, cell phones/iPods, tools, garage door openers, stereos and electronic equipment, loose change, and sunglasses.



### The most likely targets for theft:

- FACT: Most theft from vehicle crimes occur in residential areas -- in the victim's driveway, parking stall, or garage
- Vehicles with property left in plain view
- Vehicles with expensive stereo equipment
- Unattended vehicles left running
- Parking lots at parks, restaurants, shopping centers, gyms and churches

### Common methods of entry into vehicles:

- Unlocked doors or open windows
- Smashing or prying windows
- Prying or removing locks

### To reduce the chance of becoming a victim of a theft from auto, follow some simple tips:

- Remove all valuables from your vehicle
- If valuables cannot be removed, place them in a locked trunk before you reach your destination - thieves watch for people placing items under their seat or in the trunk
- Don't leave your garage door opener visible - hide it or take it with you
- Park in well-lit or easily observable places
- Lock your car, close your windows, and take your keys

### Dial 9-1-1 Immediately when you:

- See activity that "just doesn't look or feel right"
- See someone looking into cars or ducking around them
- Hear breaking glass
- See someone tampering with a car
- See someone "hanging out" in parking areas for no reason
- See a person carrying tools or property that doesn't fit the setting in your neighborhood

By reporting suspicious activity, you may prevent someone from becoming a victim or you may help the police apprehend a criminal.