



TIPS ON PROTECTING YOUR CAR FROM THEFT OR BREAK-INS

Have you ever left your keys in the ignition while paying for gas? Do you leave valuables on your seats while running errands? Are your windows partially open when your car is unattended?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you might be one of the nearly 4.5 million victims of car theft or break-ins each year, says Don Moore of Moore Protection, one of the Southern California's top residential security providers.

“Although this rate is alarming, there are several simple steps you can take to greatly reduce your risk of falling prey to an opportunistic car thief,” says Don Moore.

He recommends that you follow these security measures to reduce your risk of being the next stolen car victim:

- Take keys out of the ignition when leaving your car.
- Never leave your car unattended while the engine is running.
- Secure and lock all doors and windows.
- Install flat interior door locks. This will help prevent an amateur from using a coat hanger.
- Lock valuables in the trunk or place them under the seat—out of plain view—even while driving.
- Don't transfer valuables from the car to the trunk in public.
- Never hide an extra set of keys on or in your car.
- When valet parking, only give attendants the ignition key so they can't make copies of your house key.
- Park under a streetlight or near a busy corner. If a thief thinks he will be soon breaking into a car, he will look for another target.

If you frequently travel with items of value in your car, you may want to consider installing an alarm system. Alarm systems can range from a simple bell signal or systems with remote beepers informing the owner of a break-in to vehicle tracking devices.

Additionally, you should carry the vehicle identification number and license plate number with you, so if your car is stolen or broken into, you can report the loss at once. The police also recommend that you don't carry proof of ownership or the original registration slip in your car.

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For Moore Protection's free *Guide to Family Safety and Home Security*, call Don Moore at 310-463-7631. Moore Protection, Inc. is a full service home security company that consults, designs, installs, services and monitors its own modern and robust security systems, and prides itself on fast response, quality service and personal attention.

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