



Vehicle Safety Tips from PSP Skippack

One of the worst feelings in the world is to arrive at your vehicle and see that your window is broken and some or all of your possessions are gone. Protect your property by taking the following steps to avoid a vehicle break-in or vehicle theft:

Stay visible: If you do not have a garage, park your vehicle in a well-lit area. Likewise, if you are shopping, park in a highly visible location. If you park in a driveway, when possible back your vehicle into its parking space. This leaves the front of your vehicle visible for law enforcement when security checks are done in your neighborhood.

Avoid eye appeal: Criminals watch for opportunities; looking for purses/backpacks, computer bags, laptops, smartphones, any form of electronic device, etc. that can be seen from the window of a vehicle. Make sure that valuables are not visible. Although it's advisable to load personal items (such as computer bags or packages) in the trunk as a precautionary measure, for your safety it is best to do so before you leave your home.

Hide it all: Remove all items of value that are not being used, and their accessories; power plugs, laptop adaptors, navigation mounts.. etc., from plain view by removing them completely from the vehicle or by placing them in a secure location inside of the vehicle such as a glove box or console area. These items are an indicator for thieves that valuables may be located inside of the vehicle.

Turn it off: Some motorists have admitted they have kept their unoccupied vehicle unlocked and running; either to heat it up during the cold weather or while running a quick errand. That is not only inviting a break-in, it is a perfect setup for outright car theft. Turn off your vehicle and lock your doors and windows each and every time you exit your car and always **remove the keys and key fobs from the vehicle.**

Secure your vehicle: Lock all doors and windows upon entering and exiting your vehicle. It is often believed that crimes do not occur in certain areas. Some criminals look for areas where the suspicion of criminal activity would be low, so strive to lock all doors and windows so that you will not be a victim of a vehicle break-in or carjacking.

Call 911: If you become a victim of a vehicle break-in; by visibly seeing a broken window and/or items disheveled within your vehicle immediately call 911. **DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING**, especially the vehicle. It will be very hard for Law enforcement to scan for the violators fingerprints if fresh prints are overlapping them.