



Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

Vehicle Prowl Prevention

Vehicle prowls are the theft of property from a motor vehicle. Most are crimes of opportunity through unlocked doors and open windows where victims usually encounter expensive vehicle damage – especially to their windows, doors, and locks. Large parking locations like shopping centers, housing communities, parks and schools are prime targets for a prowler since multiple vehicles can be hit in a short time span. Also, prowlers know the odds are good that someone will leave a door unlocked, a window down or keys in the ignition.

Unfortunately, vehicle prowls are very common. Luckily, they are preventable. Use these easy and inexpensive tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle prowl:

Parking & Securing Your Vehicle:

- ◇ Use a garage or secure location whenever possible
- ◇ Park in well-lit areas where your car can be seen
- ◇ Avoid isolated areas. Park near locations frequently used by pedestrians
- ◇ If you hear something suspicious (shattering glass) or see someone looking into vehicles, call 911
- ◇ Roll up the windows and lock all doors
- ◇ Secure the trunk, hatches, bed-mounted toolboxes, and canopies
- ◇ Activate your alarm
- ◇ Install anti-theft devices

Remove These Items:

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|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| ◇ Cameras | ◇ Garage door opener | ◇ Receipts/statements |
| ◇ CD player and CD's | ◇ GPS unit | ◇ Store bags or packages |
| ◇ Cell phones | ◇ Jewelry | ◇ Tools |
| ◇ Checkbooks | ◇ Keys | ◇ Vehicle insurance, title, and registration information |
| ◇ Clothing | ◇ Laptop | ◇ Wallets |
| ◇ Credit/debit, gift cards | ◇ Luggage or bags | |
| ◇ Day planner | ◇ Mail | |
| ◇ Electronic devices | ◇ Purses | |

TIPS

Lock your doors & windows. Prowls are crimes of opportunity!

Remove your personal property. "Put your junk in the trunk!"

Use anti-theft devices. Utilize visual deterrents.

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Anti-Theft Devices:

- ◇ Steering wheel locking devices
- ◇ are easy to install and inexpensive
- ◇ Car alarms are convenient and effective - Especially if they disable the vehicle's starter when activated
- ◇ Install switches to interrupt the fuel supply or electrical systems
- ◇ Locking gas caps deters fuel from being siphoned

For emergencies, call 911