

Car Theft/Prowls– Making It Harder

To protect your car and any valuables that you might have in your car your technique will be to make it so difficult for a car thief that he will move on to someone else's car. The National Insurance Crime Bureau recommends a layered approach when deciding how to protect your car. Each layer adds more difficulty for a thief to gain control of your car or its contents. How many layers that you apply will depend on the level of car theft/car prowls where you take and store your car and how important it is to you not to have your car or its contents stolen.

Layer 1– Common sense, no cost:

This is your base point for prevention. The simplest and cheapest things you can do.

- Take your keys with you.
- If detachable, take your stereo faceplate with you.
- Close your windows.
- DO NOT leave any property in your car!
- Park in a well lit, populated area or in an attended lot.
- Lock your car!

Layer 2– Warning Device:

A visible or audible device that tells thieves your car is protected.

- A steering wheel locking device.
- A brake lock; brakes are a very strong part of your car.
- Extra hood and trunk pins (about \$35 each).
- A blinking LED light (about \$45) indicating the presence of an alarm system.
- Theft deterrent decals.
- A starter disabler (about \$50).
- Wheel locks.
- Identification markers in or on the vehicle.
- Window etching.

Layer 3– Immobilization Device:

This is a device that prevents thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring your car.

- Smart keys– having computer chips in them.
- Fuse cut-offs.
- Kill switches.
- Starter, ignition and fuel disablers.

Layer 4– Tracking Device:

This is the last resort. When everything else fails.

- A tracking device (like LoJack) allows police to find your car should it be stolen.

Obviously, the more layers that you use, the more expensive securing your car becomes. You need to be aware of how serious the car theft problem is in your neighborhood, where you work and where you shop. Then you can decide how far you need to go to protect your car.

Do You Have a Car Remote?- Beware

If you have one of those “wonderful” remote car locks for your car, be careful in the mall parking lot.

When you leave your car, lock it the old fashioned way, with the key in the lock, don't use the remote. The bad guys use scanners to pick up your remote's frequency, and then open your car with their own remotes.

Keep your keys safe. If you lose your keys, you lose your car. With your remote, the bad guys can use the panic button to easily find your car.