



How to Prevent Car Theft

Car thefts are on the rise in the City of Minneapolis and Metro Wide. Make it more difficult for thieves to steal your car. Do what you can to protect your vehicle from theft. Anything you can do to slow down car thieves will make your car a less appealing target.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Use a steering wheel lock. It is also a visible sign that you've taken steps to protect your car.
- Keep your car locked at all times; even while you are driving.
- Never leave your car running, unattended. This is how many are stolen locally, and it's easily preventable.
- Take your keys or fob with you. Nearly 1/3 of all auto thefts resulted from keys or fobs being left in the vehicle. This includes any spare keys or fobs. Thieves may rummage through your car looking for an extra key.
- Keep your car clear of any bags, boxes, or any items appealing to a thief.
- Install a tracking device to your car to help with a quick recovery.
- Know your neighbors and talk with them about these important steps toward protecting their vehicle from theft.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CAR IS STOLEN

- Call 911 right away.
- Be prepared to provide any suspect description and direction of travel.
- Know or have available:
 - The year, make, model, and color of the vehicle
 - License plate number
 - Vehicle Identification Number (also called the "VIN")
 - Any characteristics unique to your vehicle
- You will be given a Case Number for possible investigation and insurance purposes.
- You'll also want to let your insurance company know within 24 hours if your vehicle has been stolen.

Taking a few simple precautions may help you reduce the chances of your vehicle being stolen. For more details on auto theft and other crimes please use this link [Police Crime Dashboard - City of Minneapolis \(minneapolismn.gov\) www2.minneapolismn.gov/police/statistics/](http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/police/statistics/)

