



Tips on preventing auto theft and theft from auto

According to Minneapolis Police Department statistics for 2008, there were nearly seven vehicles stolen per day in the city. Another fifteen vehicles were broken into in order to steal items from them. *One fifth of all crime in the United States are auto theft. A car is stolen every 33 seconds, every day of the year. Most vehicles are stolen because it was easy to do so; eighty percent of vehicles stolen are left unlocked and 42% had the keys left inside.** In Minneapolis, purses, wallets, laptops, GPSs and other electronics are commonly stolen.



Here are some tips on how to protect your vehicle and valuables:

1. Don't leave valuables in your car. Even small items such as loose change can be tempting to a thief.
2. If you must leave valuables in your car, lock them in the trunk **before** reaching your destination.
3. Lock your car doors and close your windows.
4. Never leave your car running unattended.
5. Don't hide keys in your vehicle.
6. Park in a garage or a well-lit area.
7. Consider installing a car alarm or an anti-theft device such as a steering wheel bar lock, an engine disabler switch, etc.
8. If you have an after-market stereo, take it with you when you leave the car.
9. Be aware of identification theft if items stolen contain personal information.
10. Keep an updated record of all valuables in your car. For more information see the Home Inventory Form and Home Inventory FAQ flyer at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention.



Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/safe-staff-map.pdf to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention.

* Information in italics is for 2007 and from www.winona.edu/security/5676.asp.



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737
 Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700
 Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500
 Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800
 Sign Language: TTY 612-673-2626
 If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.