



Prince William County Police

Community Crime Prevention Tip

Reduce the Risk of Vehicle Theft

With colder temperatures, an increasing number of people are tempted to start their cars to warm them up, thaw the windows or just keep the motor running while a quick trip is made inside a convenience store. Unfortunately, vehicles that are left running, unattended and unlocked are more susceptible targets for vehicle thieves.

The Crime Prevention Unit suggests the following tips to reduce the opportunity for theft to occur.

- Remain with your vehicle whenever it is running. Do not leave your car unattended with the keys in the ignition.
- If you insist on leaving an unattended car running, use a second key or keyless remote to lock the door. Maintain view of the vehicle, keeping in mind that locked vehicles can be easily opened by criminals.
- Consider purchasing a remote starter for the vehicle which locks the doors and prevents the vehicle from being driven away without a key in the ignition.
- Inform your Home Owner's Association.
- Please share security videos showing possible suspects with the police.
- Remember that these are crimes of opportunity. They can occur anytime that the circumstances permit.
- The most important thing you can do is call the police to report crime or any suspicious activity. Please remember to report suspicious activity immediately to the police.

In the United States, a vehicle is stolen every 44 seconds

(www.fbi.gov)

REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE

Emergency: 911 * Non-Emergency: 703-792-6500 * Crime Prevention Unit: 703-792-7270