

INVEST IN VEHICLE PROTECTION

STEERING WHEEL LOCK

Prevents steering wheel from turning.

ELECTRONIC ALARMS - Consider an alarm equipped with an immobilizer that targets fuel, ignition, and the starter

VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEM

A transmitter in your vehicle enables your vehicle to be tracked electronically.

There are two basic types of Anti-theft Devices, Passive and Active. Passive devices automatically arm themselves when the vehicle is shut off. Active systems require the driver to physically apply a device or activate a switch prior to leaving the vehicle.

The Vehicle Information Centre of Canada has developed a Canadian Theft Deterrent Standard. Members of the Public are encouraged to visit their website at www.vicc.com for a list of approved anti-theft devices and manufacturers who have complied with the standard.

The Canadian Police Information Centre has a website which members of the public can access to check suspicious vehicles. It allows you to input the licence plate number to see if it has been reported stolen to the police. This website is www.nps.ca. Be aware of suspicious vehicles parked in residential areas and report them to the police.

CRIME PREVENTION

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE



**EMERGENCY
9-1-1**

**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY
416-808-2222**

For more information regarding **AUTO THEFT REDUCTION and RECOVERY** - Please contact the Crime Prevention Officer at your local Police Division or the Toronto Police Auto Squad.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.torontopolice.on.ca

Working Together to Prevent Crime...

SP 312-E, 2002/03



AUTO THEFT PREVENTION



WHY VEHICLES ARE STOLEN

TO SELL THE VEHICLE OR PARTS

Often thieves will take your car out of the Province or Country. Identification numbers may be altered or removed, ownership certificates forged, parts sold or the vehicle repainted.

FOR TRANSPORTATION

Thieves will use your vehicle to get where they want to go and later abandon the vehicle. They may just drive it around to gain 'status' with their friends.

TO COMMIT OTHER CRIMES

Vehicles are stolen and used in other crimes such as robberies, break and enters, drug dealing or drive-by shootings.

FOR VEHICLE CLONING

Vehicles are stolen, given a fraudulent identification number and then sold to unsuspecting persons who are defrauded of their money. Fraudulent vehicles will be located and seized by the Police.

HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK OF VEHICLE THEFT

PARKING YOUR VEHICLE

- ▶ Turn ignition off and TAKE the keys with you. A car left running is an open invitation to thieves
- ▶ Park in a well-lighted, attended area, if possible
- ▶ Close and lock doors and windows
- ▶ Maintain control of your keys at all times (staffed parking lots)
- ▶ Turn your wheels to the side to make it harder to tow

AT HOME

- ▶ If you have a garage, use it and lock it. Install a motion sensor light to illuminate your vehicles and/or garage area
- ▶ If you have a front-wheel drive car, park front end first
- ▶ Back in rear-wheel drive cars
- ▶ Always set the emergency brake
- ▶ Don't leave the ownership or insurance cards in the vehicle when unattended
- ▶ Drop business cards or address labels inside doors to assist with vehicle identification

OTHER IMPORTANT TIPS

- ▶ Never hide a spare key in the vehicle, thieves know where to look for it
- ▶ Be aware of your surroundings while driving and drive with your doors locked
- ▶ Be aware when purchasing a vehicle. If the deal sounds too good to be true... It probably is!

IF YOUR VEHICLE IS STOLEN...

1. Report the theft to the police immediately
2. If your car or accessories are stolen, the police will need specific information to identify the car, parts and accessories.

YOU SHOULD RECORD THE FOLLOWING

- ▶ Year, Make, Model, and Colour(s)
- ▶ Licence Number
- ▶ Vehicle Identification Number
- ▶ Serial numbers of all special equipment
- ▶ Special markings - dents, scratches, other damage etc.