



# Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

## Vehicle Theft Prevention

Vehicle Theft has almost doubled within the last several months in Kitsap County. The opportunity arises for theft when the vehicle is either running, unlocked, or the windows are rolled down. The most common use of entry is using shaved keys and easily opening unsecured door handles, typically on older models of vehicles.

In our layered approach at preventing auto theft the cheapest way to protect yourself is to use common sense, however there are other options that will make the crime harder to commit. With vehicle thefts on the rise, it is important to follow these prevention tips to help reduce your risk of being a victim to a vehicle theft:

### Layer 1: Always use common sense

- ◇ Lock your doors
- ◇ Remove your keys from the ignition
- ◇ Do not leave your car running to warm up
- ◇ Close all windows completely
- ◇ Park in well-lit areas
- ◇ Don't leave valuables in your vehicle
- ◇ Never hide a spare key

### Links and Reference:

- [Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority](#)
- [NHTSA- Vehicle Theft Prevention](#)
- [NICB- Vehicle Theft](#)

### Layer 2: Use a visible or audible device

- ◇ Audible alarms
- ◇ Steering wheel locks
- ◇ Brake pedal locks
- ◇ Theft deterrent decals
- ◇ Identification markers in or on vehicle
- ◇ Window etching

### Layer 3: Install an immobilizer or tracker

- ◇ Smart keys
- ◇ Fuse cut-offs
- ◇ Kill switches
- ◇ Starter, ignition, and fuel disablers
- ◇ Wireless ignition authentication
- ◇ OBD lock
- ◇ Tracking system
  - OBD
  - Cellular/GPS
  - Lojack

## For emergencies, call 911

# TIPS

Don't leave your car unattended while running.

Lock your doors and ensure there is nothing of value visible in your vehicle.

Use a visual or audible theft deterrent device, immobilizer, or tracking system.