

WEST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Preventing Auto Break-Ins

- Always lock your vehicle doors and windows. If you have pets in the car, keep the window open a bit--but don't leave them for long.
- Don't leave valuables in view. This not only means obvious things like wallets, purses, cameras, leather jackets, CD players, etc., but any bags or backpacks that might hold them. If you must leave valuables in the car, use the trunk. If you don't have a trunk, try under the seat or cover the items with a floor mat or blanket. At least get it out of plain view.
- Don't leave your ID or credit cards in the vehicle. Car break-ins are a goldmine for identity theft.

Preventing Auto Theft

- Don't leave the car with the motor running.
- Don't leave the keys in the ignition, in the car, under the car, around the car or lying in plain sight. Any place you can think of, thieves can think of too.
- Don't mark keys with the car license number or home address. That gives thieves a way to match found keys with your vehicle or home.
- Don't give keys to new acquaintances.
- At home, park inside a locked garage if possible. Turn the wheels sharply to make it difficult to tow.
- Install motion detector lights in the driveway and/or a motion detector alarm in the garage.
- Away from home, park in well traveled, well-lit areas. Avoid leaving the car parked in long term lots for long periods of time. When you return, check in, under, and around the car for unwanted guests.
- Keep your car registration, drivers license, and proof of insurance in your wallet, not in your glove compartment.
- Record the factory serial number of car parts, tape deck, etc.; keep this information in a safe deposit box.

- Engrave your driver's license number in hard to find locations on the vehicle. Do the same with your VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) already located on a manufacturer-supplied metal strip attached to your car -- commonly right inside the windshield.)
- Engrave your driver's license number on accessories that would not remain with the vehicle when sold. Use paint or a marker to put an ID marking under the engine hood and trunk lid.
- Install removable electronics (i.e. CD players). Don't leave them in the car.
- For long-term parking or vehicle storage, disconnect the battery and remove the rotor from the distributor. Without the rotor, the car cannot be jump-started or hot-wired.

Install anti-theft mechanical devices. These include:

- steering wheel locks which incapacitate the steering wheel (\$25-100);
- steering column "collars," especially good for older cars (\$100-200 installed);
- tire locks, similar to parking control "boots," (\$80-200);
- hidden "kill" switches, which incapacitate fuel flow (\$10-125);
- high tech "smart" keys (only available for certain late model cars -- much harder to duplicate);
- tracking devices (if you can find a company offering this service);
- audible alarms (\$150-1,000).

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the West Pikeland Township Police Department at 610-827-5007. If you have an emergency or need immediate police assistance, dial **911**.