

1. Lock your car and take the keys with you.

Always lock your car and take the keys with you, no matter what. Between 25-40% of cars stolen in Maryland had keys in the ignition. Don't hide spare keys in your car; they can be easily found.

4. Never leave valuables in plain view.

Valuables in plain view are a tempting target for car thieves or vandals. It takes just a few minutes to put valuables in the trunk and out of sight.



5. Don't leave vehicle registration and insurance cards in your car.

Keep these valuable documents in your wallet or purse; they are legitimate documents thieves can use if stopped by police.

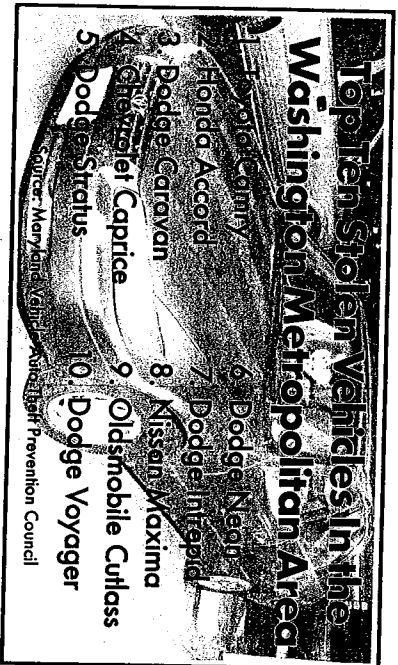
6. Use a steering wheel lock.

Anti-theft devices of any kind deter criminals. Most vehicles are stolen at night; thieves and vandals want to steal or vandalize your car as quickly and quietly as possible. And, register your vehicle in the Watch Your Car program. The program's decals tell police officers that your vehicle is generally not operated between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.

- when most vehicle thefts occur - and authorizes them to make a routine stop if they see your car on the road during these hours.

2. Park in well-lit areas.

The saying 'common sense is your best defense' is a good one when it comes to safety. Thieves and vandals are more successful under the cover of darkness, and they are less likely to attempt to steal or vandalize vehicles parked in well-lit areas.



9. Stay alert, and share these vehicle safety tips.

Don't let your family, friends and neighbors become victims of auto theft and vandalism. Share these safety tips to make them aware of the things everyone can do to deter thieves and vandals.

8. Install a vehicle recovery tracking system.

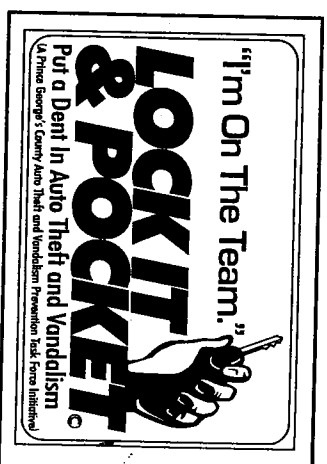
High-tech tracking devices, such as Lo-Jack and satellite tracking systems, send out signals that can be tracked by police nationwide.

7. Use an alarm, a smart key or an ignition-disabling device.

These devices, including fuse cutoff, ignition and fuel pump disablers, are further deterrents. They scare thieves off, and keep them from hot-wiring your vehicle.

3. Never leave your car running unattended, not even in your driveway.

An unattended vehicle, with the keys in the ignition, is an invitation to car thieves or vandals, and it's against the law. The penalty for violation is a ticket, a \$55.00 fine and one point on your drivers license.



Get Involved, Call the Office of Community Relations at **301-952-4729**

Ask about the Community Auto Theft and Vandalism Prevention Task Force.