

Preventing Auto Theft

Submitted by Taylorsville Police Department

With winter in full swing, please take some simple steps to protect your vehicle from being stolen. The luxury of entering a warm vehicle can come at a great expense to you, your family, and society as whole!

According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, a motor vehicle is stolen in the U.S. every 26.4 seconds. Not only does this immediately affect the victim with a loss of time and money, it also costs society as a whole, due to insurance premium increases. In addition, stolen vehicles are far more likely to be used to commit other crimes.

There has been an increase in stolen vehicles in the past couple of months. This increase is typical in winter, and is directly linked to what law enforcement refers to as "warm-ups". Warm-ups are when cars are started and left running unattended. This is usually in attempt to defrost a vehicle, or simply to ensure the interior of the vehicle is warm prior to driving.



Statistics show that the most common time for motor vehicle theft is 7:00 am. Not by coincidence, this is also the most typical time residents are warming up their cars for work. As alluring as it is to enter a warm vehicle, it is equally alluring for a criminal to take advantage of this crime of opportunity and steal your car.

Take a proactive approach to deterring vehicle theft. Do not leave your car unattended while it is running. Be alert and observant in your neighborhood to any suspicious activity or behavior. Remember....Residents know their neighborhoods better than anyone, and know what is unusual or out of place. Keep your garage door closed at all times even during the day time hours when you are not physically close to the door. Call the police if you notice suspicious people, vehicles, or activity in or around your community.

While there is nothing guaranteed to thwart or dissuade your car from being stolen, taking preventative measures can minimize your chances of becoming the victim of auto theft.