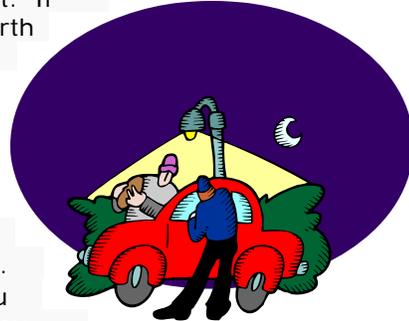


Preventing Vehicle Burglaries

Article Submitted by Taylorsville Police Department

With the holidays nearing, criminals are ever aware of presents and other valuables left in vehicles. Vehicle burglaries are crimes of opportunity and people can minimize their chances of being a victim by taking a few simple steps:

- Keep all car doors and windows closed and locked – even if it's a quick errand.
- Do not leave valuables or packages in plain sight in your vehicle. **If you must leave valuables in the car, put them in the trunk.**
- If your vehicle has a built-in security system, use it. If you don't have a security system installed, it is worth the investment.
- Park your vehicle in an area that is visible to the public and well-lit at night. If possible, park your car in the garage. If garage parking is not available, the next best option is to park your car in the driveway and install motion-sensor security lighting on your home.
- Never leave an electronic garage opener in the car.
- Headed to the store? Burglars are, too. When you pack the car, bring as few items as possible with you - leave jewelry, watches, laptops, etc., at home. Keep any necessary valuables like keys, identification, and credit cards on your person.
- Keep a list of serial numbers (include make and model information, as well) for the commonly used electronic equipment you may keep in the car, like CD players, stereo faceplates, MP3 players, etc. Keep a copy of this inventory in a safe place such as a safe deposit box. We also suggest that you engrave your driver's license number on your valuables to aid in their recovery, should they be lost or stolen.
- If your car is burglarized, please report it to the police department immediately.
- **Remember.... If it can be seen, it can be stolen!**



In addition to protecting your own property from criminals, you can be a good neighbor by watching out for suspicious persons or activities in your area. No one knows a neighborhood better than the people who live there, so the Police Department depends on the assistance of concerned, responsible residents to report suspicious persons or activity. If you see something that looks suspicious, call police dispatch at 801-743-700 or call 9-1-1. Suspicious activity may include:

- A person looking into parked cars may be looking for a car to steal or for valuables left in plain view inside.
- The sound of breaking glass or car alarm could mean a vehicle break-in.
- Any vehicle cruising slowly, or following a course that seems aimless or repetitive, is suspicious in any location. Persons walking around a neighborhood pulling on car door handles may be looking for unlocked vehicles to steal from.
- Persons going door to door without a legitimate reason (asking for someone who doesn't live at the residence) or without business license.

Don't worry about feeling embarrassed if your suspicions are wrong; think instead about what could happen if your suspicions are right and you don't call. It is the Police Department's job to investigate suspicious matters, and any assistance in spotting suspicious activity is greatly appreciated! Our dispatch non-emergency phone number is (801) 743-7000, or in an emergency dial 911.