



# Halton Regional Police Service

## Preventing Auto Theft



Automobiles have long helped define our culture and lifestyle. As such, they are often targets for criminals in search of an easy ride or a quick dollar.

The following tips are provided to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of auto theft:

### Why Vehicles Are Stolen:

- Re-sale in their entirety or in parts. Thieves may take stolen vehicles out of the province or even the country.
- Transportation before they are abandoned
- Use in other crimes such as robberies or break and enters
- Sale under a false identification number to unsuspecting parties
- As part of an insurance fraud. In these instances, owners have their vehicles stolen and sold, taking a portion of proceeds while filing false claims with their insurance companies

### Parking:

- Park in well-lit and attended areas whenever possible
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running - even for a few seconds. Turn the ignition off and take the keys with you.
- Always lock all vehicle doors and windows when entering and exiting
- Never leave personal identification or valuables in your vehicle
- Lock all valuables in your trunk. Don't tempt thieves by leaving packages or purses in plain view or on the seat.
- Remove GPS navigation and cell phone devices from view when not in your vehicle
- Mount CD and MP3 players inconspicuously
- Engrave removable accessories such as stereos for easy identification
- Turn the front wheels to one side in parking spaces to make your vehicle more difficult to tow



### At Home:

- If you have a garage, use it
- Park front-wheel drive models front end first
- Back rear-wheel drive models into driveways
- Always lock car doors and set the emergency brake
- Never leave original vehicle ownership or driver's licences in your car
- Never hide spare keys in your vehicle. Thieves know where to look.
- Never place identification tags or address labels on your key ring. Thieves may use them to locate your home or car.
- Drop a business card or address label down each panel door to assist police in identifying you as the registered owner, if needed

### When Purchasing A Vehicle:

- Always ensure the seller has the 'Used Vehicle Information Package'

### Invest in Vehicle Protection:

As an added deterrent to would-be auto thieves, you may wish to consider an anti-theft device(s):

- Electronic alarms - especially those with kill switches
- Ignition kill switches spliced into a vehicle's ignition to disable it. Only the key enables the vehicle to start.
- Fuel kill switches spliced into a vehicle's fuel system wiring, stopping fuel supply to the engine

- Steering wheel locks to prevent steering wheels from turning
- Gearshift locks to disable transmissions from shifting
- Hood locks to prevent someone from opening a vehicle's hood
- Steering column collars to protect steering columns from ignition entry
- Vehicle tracking systems to trace a vehicle's location electronically

### Record The Following in A Safe Place:

- Year, make, model and colour of your vehicle
- Licence and vehicle identification numbers
- Serial numbers of any special equipment
- Any dents or scratches that distinguish your vehicle from others

### If Your Vehicle Is Stolen:

- Report it immediately to the police
- Provide police with identification and specific information about the vehicle and any valuables contained therein

For more information, contact:  
**Halton Regional Police Service**  
905-825-4777  
[www.hrps.on.ca](http://www.hrps.on.ca)

*Progress Through Participation*