

# HOW TO AVOID CAR THEFTS

## THE 5 IMPORTANT TIPS & TRICKS

**1**

### **LOCK YOUR CAR**

Keeping your windows & doors locked is the first step in deterring a thief. It's good to get into the habit of checking your car doors. Thieves are looking for your side mirrors to be folded in. It is the quick way for them to check whose car is available for the taking.

**2**

### **REMOVE YOUR KEYS FROM THE VEHICLE**

Do not leave a spare key near your vehicle or leave your keys in the ignition, says the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). If your key is in the ignition, a thief can simply break a window and drive off. Do not leave your car running, even if you're just going into a store for a quick errand. A running vehicle may be an easy mark for a thief, especially if it is unattended or unlocked.

**3**

### **PARK IN WELL-LIT AREAS**

Avoid parking in areas that are poorly lit or places that are not immediately seen by passers-by. ACP recommends parking under a light in a well-lit area and in a well-trafficked area, when possible, as thieves may be deterred if they know they can easily be seen.

**4**

### **INSTALL A VEHICLE IMMOBILIZER SYSTEM**

Thieves can bypass your ignition by "hotwiring" your car, but you can help prevent this by using a vehicle immobilizer system, says the NHTSA. According to the NICB, immobilizer systems may incorporate smart keys, kill switches and wireless ignition authentication. They'll essentially disable the vehicle so that a thief cannot make off with it.

**5**

### **PARK YOURSELF OR USE A VALET KEY**

Park your car yourself or use your valet keys – they are designed to prevent thieves from getting into your locked glove box with your personal information – like home address. They can copy your key but without your personal information they cannot find your car. Lock your glove box and check for tracking devices after you get your car back.

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