



1) Never leave your car running if it's unattended

It's often tempting, especially during the Canadian winters to leave a car running. Unfortunately, this can be an open invitation to auto thieves who only need a few seconds to get into your car and drive away with it.

2) Don't leave your keys in the ignition or inside your car

Approximately 20% of stolen vehicles are those in which the keys have been left in the ignition.

If you have extra sets of keys, make sure you keep them in a secure location inside your home and never leave your keys in the ignition.

3) Don't leave valuables inside your car

A car which has valuables within plain view is always a target for car thieves. Don't leave any personal documents, credit cards or cash inside your vehicle.

4) Lock your car and roll up the windows

About 50% of all stolen vehicles were left unlocked. If your car is unlocked, or the windows are not rolled up all the way, a resourceful thief can get inside and steal your car.

5) Use your garage

If you have a garage, park your car inside and keep the garage locked.

6) Install a wheel or brake locking device

These devices make it more difficult to drive the vehicle and are likely to deter car thieves.

7) Buy a vehicle with a security system

Many of today's newer vehicles have some form of anti-theft device. Even though it may cost more to buy a vehicle with this protection, it may save you money on your car insurance premiums. Most auto insurance companies will lower your premium if you have anti-theft protection for your car.

8) Park in well lit and high-traffic areas

More than half of all vehicle thefts occur at night. Whenever possible park in high-traffic, highly visible areas.

9) Use your emergency brake when parking

If the emergency brake is engaged it is much more difficult for a thief to tow your car away.

10) Have your VIN etched on the window or other major parts of the vehicle

You can have your VIN professionally etched on a window or on other major parts of the vehicle. This allows your vehicle to be traced more easily (even if it has been dismantled and sold as parts) and makes your car less attractive to professional thieves.

Other Important Notes

- **Consider installing a vehicle tracking device**

Vehicle tracking devices can be used by the police to find your vehicle when it has been stolen. Certain vehicle manufacturers include this as a standard security device on every vehicle, and in other cases, you can have it added as an option from the factory or installed aftermarket.

- **Make sure that you have your license plate and vehicle identification number (VIN) written down**

This information, as well as the make, model, year and colour of your car are needed to file a stolen vehicle report and to prove that a vehicle is yours.