



VEHICLE BURGLARY TIPS

RCPD wants to offer its residents tips to help keep your vehicle secure, and how you can report vehicle burglaries. Most vehicle burglaries are crimes of opportunity that occur during the overnight hours when your vehicle is unattended. By taking a few simple steps, you can reduce the risk to yourself while also discouraging those who commit crime.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

- **Don't leave anything of value in your vehicle.** Most burglars are simply looking for something of value to take. When parked at home, take valuable items into the house.
- **Always lock the doors and close the windows of your vehicle,** even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station or running inside your house. Many burglars simply check door handles and move on if the door is locked.
- **Keep your vehicle clean.** Even items that aren't valuable can be mistaken as valuable, such as empty shopping bags or boxes.
- **Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring.**
- **When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options.** Consider purchasing and installing security devices, such as an interior hood lock release or a kill switch.
- **If your vehicle is equipped with a security system, use it.** If your vehicle will regularly sit outside at home, consider getting an alarm system installed on your vehicle. The noise caused by the alarm will scare most burglars away, as you and your neighbors will be alerted.

PARK CAREFULLY

- **Use your garage to park your vehicle in.** Keep your garage door closed and locked. It's not always practical, but a car in the garage is safer than a car on the street.
- **If you can't use a garage, park your vehicle in your driveway or assigned parking space within your community.** This is one more visible barrier to a burglar, as many simply walk down the street and check parked vehicles.
- **Don't leave your vehicle in unattended parking for an extended period.**
- **Ensure adequate lighting on the vehicle, driveway and surrounding areas.** Sensor lighting that comes on at dusk and off at dawn works best. Motion lighting can be defeated by a burglar with little effort.
- **Consider installing a video camera** that will clearly record someone attempting to break into your vehicle or home.

WHEN SHOPPING

- **Park in a well-lit space.**
- **Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.**
- **Park as close as you can to your destination** and take notice of where you parked.
- **Never leave your car unoccupied** with the motor running or with children inside.
- **Hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk of your vehicle.**
- **Locate your keys prior to going to your car.**
- **Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels.** Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- **Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.** Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

FACT:

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a motor vehicle is stolen every 39 seconds in the United States. If your vehicle itself isn't at risk, your personal belongings within it are.

HOW TO REPORT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

RCPD is asking residents and businesses to **report any and all criminal activity**. Here are ways you can make a report:

- To **report a crime in progress or suspicious activity**, call 911.
- You can also now **send a text message to 911** from your mobile phone or handheld device.
- To **report a crime after the fact**, please call our non-emergency number at 916.362.5115.
- **File a police report online** at:
RanchoCordovaPD.com/ReportCrime
- Have information on a crime? **Submit a tip online** at:
RanchoCordovaPD.com/SubmitATip
- **Report an issue or ask a question using Rancho Cordova Connect**, the city's online reporting system, at CityofRanchoCordova.org/RanchoCordovaConnect.
- **Do NOT report a crime via our social media pages.** These pages are not monitored 24/7 and neither are we able to track these reports for data purposes.



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More Safety Tips

