



# VEHICLE SECURITY INFORMATION

## KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT VEHICLE THEFT

### TOP REASONS CARS ARE STOLEN:

- For joyriding, often by juveniles.
- For commercial operations like "chop shops."
- For use in another crime.
- In exchange for narcotics.
- By the owners who give permission for their cars to be stolen to commit insurance fraud.

### VEHICLE CRIME STATISTICS:

- Most auto-thefts occur at night.
- Cars are most often stolen for their parts.
- Approximately 86 percent of all cars stolen in the City of Seattle are recovered.



## WAYS TO PREVENT VEHICLE THEFT

### A CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY:

Vehicle theft and car prowling are both crimes of opportunity. There are steps you can take to be proactive in keeping your vehicle safe from being prowled or stolen such as:

- Be observant of your surroundings at all times.
- Secure valuables out of sight *before* you park.
- Participate in a Block Watch Program.

Always report suspicious activity immediately to **911**. Please be prepared to give the year, make, model, color, license plate of your car, where it was last seen and whether others kept spare keys or had permission to use the car.

### VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION TIPS:

- Remove keys from the ignition, even if you're near the car, such as at an ATM or in the driveway.
- Try to park in well lit areas and in lots that have attendants.
- Turn off your vehicle every time you leave it, locking both your doors and the steering wheel.
- Never leave items of value in your car. This includes the glove compartment and center console.
- Completely close all of your windows when you leave your vehicle.
- Use an anti-theft device or use an anti-theft plan.
- Vehicle Clubs are an effective way of deterring auto theft and car prowls. Vehicle clubs are available for purchase at:

**The Seattle Neighborhood Group**

1810 E. Yesler Way | (206) 323-9666

- Learn more at [www.seattle.gov/police/prevention](http://www.seattle.gov/police/prevention)



**SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

610 5th Avenue P.O. Box 34986

Seattle, WA 98124-4986

[www.seattle.gov/police](http://www.seattle.gov/police)