

What Steps can I take to Prevent becoming a Victim?

Remove Visible Items from Your Vehicle.

- If you leave items visible in your car, you are a target. Be aware that someone else may be watching as you put a wallet, purse, or cell phone under your seat, especially at the gym. Take these items with you.

Lock Up

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. Lock up whenever you leave your car, and take the keys with you.
- Lock the trunk and/or tailgate.
- Close all windows - professional thieves have tools that help unlock cars through a minimum of open space.
- Be sure vent or wind-wing windows and sunroofs are shut tight and locked. These are a favorite means of entry for car thieves.
- Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini-mall.

- Buy an alarm and use it. Many people believe that alarms no longer make a difference, however, they do remain an effective deterrent to a burglar. Criminals will choose the easiest target. If they have two cars to choose from - one with an alarm and one without - they will burglarize the one without.

Park Safely!

- At home, park in your garage if you have one. Lock your car and all garage doors.
- Park in a well-lighted area.
- Check to see that your vehicle is visible to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- Avoid alleys.

SIMI VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

3901 Alamo Street
Simi Valley, CA 93063-2102

Business Phone
(805) 583-6950

Emergency 911

Crime Prevention
(805) 583-6908

VEHICLE



BURGLARY

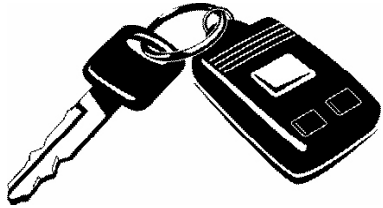
A Crime of Opportunity



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

SIMI VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Simi Valley Police Department is taking this opportunity to notify residents about vehicle burglaries occurring in your neighborhood.



Vehicle burglary is most often a crime of opportunity. Carelessness is often the cause of vehicles being broken into: However, you can minimize your chance of being a victim by taking away the opportunity.

What is Vehicle Burglary?

Vehicle Burglary is the theft of property (any value) from a locked vehicle. This is a felony. Theft of property from an unlocked vehicle is generally a misdemeanor unless the value of the stolen property is equal to or greater than \$400.

How can Your Complacency Affect This Crime?

The three elements needed to commit a crime are desire, ability, and opportunity. Complacency creates opportunity and ability. If you can remove the opportunity or ability, you can prevent crime.

What Items are Most Commonly Stolen from Vehicles?

- Briefcases and computers
- Cash, jewelry, mail and keys
- Garage door openers
- Cell phones and chargers
- CD's and CD cases
- Purses, wallets and day planners (even if under seat)

- Gym bags
- Tools
- Stereos and faceplates

How can Auto Burglary Lead to Residential Burglary?

Garage door openers, house keys or vehicle registrations left in your car can lead to identity theft and residential burglary.

- Vehicle Registration - Black out the address on your registration and photocopy it. Keep the copy, not the original, in your car.
- Mail - Do not leave outgoing or incoming mail in your car, especially where visible. This has your name and address on it.
- Garage Door Opener - Avoid leaving this in your vehicle if possible.
- Keys - Never leave keys in your car.