Why would anyone steal your stuff?

Motivation varies from excitement, and financial gain to identity theft and more.

In general, two kinds of property are stolen: personal items and car components.

Personal items that owners may leave in their cars include loose change, laptop computers, cellular phones, portable music players and wallets or pocket books.

Targeted car components change as the different features become highly valued. For a time stereo equipment was targeted, but now air bags and expensive parts such as catalytic converters, high-intensity discharge or xenon headlamps are prized. DOJ

23%
of all thefts reported
are thefts from vehicles.

Theft from Auto is a Serious Crime

...and it's one you can avoid with awareness and preparation.

Remove the Desire, Ability and Opportunity

MARYLAND
Vehicle Theft Prevention Council
1201 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, MD 21208
1-800-96-THEFT

Theft From Auto

Move It or Lose It Eliminate the

Lock Out Car Theft!

MARYLAND VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL
"YOU HOLD THE KEY"
Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

https://mdsp.maryland.gov/safety-prevention

Preventing Theft Is Easier Than You Think!

Thieves look for the right opportunity.

Generally, thieves look for easy, risk free opportunities. Drivers become complacent about vehicle security and tend to leave their cars unlocked, windows down, and valuables in plain sight and easily accessible. As a result, drivers unwittingly create an easy opportunity for thieves to commit a crime.

Target Selection

Why Your Vehicle?

Suburban residential neighborhoods and parking lots offer criminals a large number of potential opportunities for theft. The area can be quickly canvassed by thieves. Generally, thieves already possess the **desire** to commit a crime. By exploiting unlocked cars or cars with windows left down or visually identifying a desirable object in plain view, a thief needs very little **ability** to commit the crime.

Caution!

New vehicles often come with a spare key in the owners manual. Do not leave this key in vehicle.

Prevention Tips

Removing the Opportunity

- Roll up your windows before parking.
- Keep the vehicle locked when unattended.
- Keep packages, loose change, garage door openers and valuables out of sight or in the trunk.
- Do not hide a second set of keys in/on your car.
- Look for parking spaces in well-lighted areas.
- Avoid parking near dumpsters, large vans or trucks that would obstruct the public view of your vehicle.
- Use tire/wheel locks.
- Replace T-shaped door locks with straight locks.
- Install and use a car alarm.
- Use your garage, if you have one, and lock it.
- Avoid parking your vehicle on the street if possible.
- Park in attended lots when available.
- Record serial numbers for cell phones, portable music players and other items frequently used in your vehicle.

More Tips

- Avoid breakdowns by keeping your vehicle in good operating condition.
- The vehicle's title should not be kept in the car.
- Protect your garage door opener from theft as it allows immediate access to your home.
- Protect your handicap placards and EZpasses by keeping them out of sight when your car is parked.
- Protect your registration and insurance information from theft as it contains your name and home address and invites identity theft and burglary of your home.

A thief already has the desire and the ability to take your stuff -

The only thing that the thief lacks is an *opportunity.*

Don't Provide the Opportunity!!

Lock your doors, keep your windows up, and remove all inviting items from plain view.

Learn more about Vehicle Theft Prevention at https://mdsp.maryland.gov/safety-prevention