



Community Organization, Inc.

HOW TO PREVENT LARCENY FROM AUTOS

This crime involves thieves entering cars and removing items from the car's passenger compartment. A car's passenger compartment is encased in glass. This allows the driver to see out of the vehicle so that it can be properly operated. It also allows thieves to see anything of value in the car, and all they need to do is break the glass and remove it. The passenger compartment of a car is not a safe place to store any item of value. Criminals particularly will steal GPS devices, cell phones, lap tops, "handicapped placards" that are hung from interior review mirror attached to the car's windshield, and cash, particularly change, from cars. It is best to secure these items in your home or office when not in use, or at least place them out of view, in the trunk of your car. This crime is largely preventable. Frequently all we need to do to stop it is to secure our valuable items outside the passenger compartment of our cars. Most importantly, **ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR.**

Thieves will also look for signs that a cell phone or a lap top is in a car. If they see a cell phone or lap top power cord in the car's power port in the dash, they may break into the car in an attempt to locate the cell phone or lap top. Please do not leave your cell phone's or lap top's power cord plugged into the car's power port. Secure it out of sight when not in use.

Thieves will look for signs a GPS device is in a vehicle. If there is noticeable suction cup mark on the windshield, they may break into a car hoping to find a GPS device. If you use a GPS device, you might consider utilizing glass cleaning wipes to periodically remove the marks a suction cup will leave on your windshield.

Thieves are increasingly removing catalytic converters from the exhaust systems of cars. The converters contain platinum beads, and when disassembled by a scrap company, the platinum can be sold for a substantial amount of money. Try to park your car in a well lighted area, and if you see people under a vehicle, please call 911.