



Anderson, SC

Police Department



It takes less than a minute for a thief to break your car window and snatch the iPod, laptop or purse on the front seat.

Don't become a statistic. Follow these common sense habits and tips for preventing car break-ins:



discourage a car break-in thief who likes to work in silence.

- **Keep your car visible:** Park in well-lit areas, near people or with a parking lot or garage attendant on duty. Avoid having your car concealed by larger vehicles, fences or foliage; thieves like to work in private. Use exterior lighting to protect your vehicle when parked at your residence. Thieves are more likely to enter onto dark property than to enter a well-lit driveway or yard.
- **Don't make it easy:** Keep windows and sunroofs closed and doors locked. Greater than one-fourth of thefts from vehicles are from unlocked cars.
- **Activate your vehicle's alarm:** Don't have one? Factory-installed anti-theft systems are best, but a professionally installed alarm can discourage a car break-in thief who likes to work in silence.
- **Hide your valuables:** Many smash-and-grab thieves act on impulse. So keep your stuff out of sight – either with you or in a locked trunk. Don't count on the glove box; thieves know to look there, and they're easy to break into. If you have a wagon or SUV that leaves your cargo area open, get a retractable fitted cover or use a blanket to cover valuable items and other belongings hidden.
- **Don't hand a thief your keys:** Take your keys with you. And if you think you have a great hiding place for a spare key, car break-in thieves know to look above the visor, in the center console, under the floor mat, in the trunk well, etc.