

February 2014

## Preventing Theft from Auto

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February is Auto Crime Enforcement Month in British Columbia and the City of Surrey along with the Surrey RCMP has provided the list of tips below to help reduce the chance of becoming a victim of Auto Crime. By following these suggestions you're helping to remove the opportunity that criminals look for in a target.

### 10 Tips to Avoid Auto Crime

1. Never leave your car keys unattended try and keep them with you at all times.
  - a. Keep your spare keys in your wallet, not in your car.
2. Remove the personal finance sheet from your car insurance documents and keep it in a safe place.
3. Invest in a good anti-theft device.
  - a. Mechanical option (steering wheel lock, shifter locks, brake pedal locks) are good visual deterrent.
  - b. Vehicle alarms are a better option.
  - c. Electronic immobilizers are the best option to reduce the risk of your car being stolen.
4. Close windows and lock your doors. Ensure to take you possessions with you (or keep them out of sight in a trunk).
  - a. Don't forget about GPS holders and the suction cup imprint they leave on your windshield; thieves will look for this and assume it's in the glove box.
5. At home, light your driveway all night. When out, try to park in well-lit areas near pedestrian traffic.
  - a. Avoid parking behind fences or hedges that obstruct view for criminals to work unnoticed.
6. After opening an automatic gate to underground parking, watch out for thieves waiting to slip inside. Wait for the gate to close behind you.
7. Don't keep your garage door opener in the car; keep it with you. Invest in a keychain fob that attaches right to your car keys.
8. Install an anti-theft car stereo, or buy one that has a removable faceplate and take it with you when you park.
9. Know your license plate number and check it and your insurance decal regularly.
10. Never leave your vehicle unattended while it warms up – even just for a minute.

If you see a suspicious person or activity near a vehicle, call the police immediately **604-599-0502**. Don't wait for a crime to occur, be proactive and report suspicious person(s), vehicles or activities before a crime is committed. For more Top 10 lists, prevention measures and information please visit [www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com), [www.baitcar.com](http://www.baitcar.com) and the 'Protect Yourself' section of the Surrey RCMP website [surrey.rcmp.ca](http://surrey.rcmp.ca)

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