



Grain Valley Police

Crime Prevention Tips

Theft of and Theft From Vehicles



Lock Your Doors

Keeping your doors locked is the first step in deterring a thief. It's good to get into the habit of checking your car doors.

Remove Your Keys From The Vehicle

Never leave your keys in the ignition. If your key is in the car, a thief can simply break a window and drive off. Don't leaving your car running, even if you're just going into a store for a quick errand. A running vehicle may be an easy mark for a thief, especially if it is unattended or unlocked.

Don't Leave A Spare Key Near Your Vehicle

Take your keys with you when you leave your car. Some people keep a spare key under the car or in the glove box, just in case they get locked out, but thieves know where to check for an extra key. While getting locked out of your car is a pain, think about the potential hassle of your car getting stolen.

Close The Windows

Keep your windows closed completely. A thief can simply reach into your car through an open window, taking what they can reach or unlocking the door to gain full access to your vehicle and everything in it.

Install An Audible Alarm System

An audible alarm is designed to emit a loud noise, often the car's horn, if someone attempts to enter the vehicle while the alarm is on. The unwanted attention attracted by the noise may chase off a potential thief. There are quite a variety of car alarms available, but keep in mind that you may need to have a mechanic or alarm technician install it for you — especially if the installation requires working with the vehicle's wiring system.

Park Your Vehicle In Well-Lit Areas

Avoid parking in areas that are poorly lit or places that are not immediately seen by passers-by. If parking in your driveway, install motion sensor lighting for the exterior of your home.

Install A Vehicle Immobilizer System

Thieves can bypass your ignition by “hotwiring” your car, but you can help prevent this by using a vehicle immobilizer system. Immobilizer systems may incorporate smart keys, kill switches and wireless ignition authentication. They’ll essentially disable the vehicle so that a thief cannot make off with it. You may need the assistance of a mechanic or technician who is familiar with the vehicle’s wiring and computer.

Install A Tracking System

You may want to consider installing a tracking system or a vehicle recovery system. (As with the other alarms, you may need to have a professional install the device.) If your car is stolen, this tracking system will use wireless and/or GPS technology to emit a signal to the police or a monitoring service of your vehicle’s location. This may help the police recover your vehicle faster.

Don’t Leave Valuables In Your Vehicle

One way to attract a thief is to leave a purse, cell phone or another high-value item in a highly visible area of your car. It’s best to leave anything of value at home, but, if you must have something important with you, keep it out of sight. Research recommends putting valuables in the trunk before you get where you need to be, as some thieves scope parking lots to look for people who are moving items to their trunk. Once you’ve left the vehicle, they may break into the trunk to grab whatever you stashed away.

Be Alert

Be aware of your surroundings when you park your car. If you are wary of the safety of your car or see someone loitering around the parking lot, it’s best to park somewhere else. It is also recommended to double-check that your vehicle’s windows and doors are closed and locked before leaving your car unattended.



What To Do If Your Car is Stolen

If your car is stolen, contact the police immediately. You will need to provide the following information to the police:

- The year, make, model and color of the car
- License plate number
- Vehicle Identification Number (also called the “VIN”)

Contact Your Insurance Company:

You'll also want to let your insurance company know within 24 hours if your vehicle has been stolen.

Grain Valley Police Department

Emergency: 9-1-1

Dispatch/After Hours: 816-795-1960

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