

Preventing Auto Theft

A MESSAGE FROM THE LANGLEY CITY CRIME PREVENTION TASK GROUP

Auto theft is not a victimless crime or just a property crime. Auto theft costs all Canadians millions per year, if one considers health care, court, policing, legal and out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles.

Auto crime is a persistent threat in B.C.; help protect your vehicle by identifying risks and taking away opportunities for thieves.

According to police data, 46,600 vehicles were broken into and 7,500 were stolen in 2020. That means thieves are on the prowl and any valuables left in the open can make your vehicle an appealing target. Help do your part to deter thieves and learn how to fight auto-theft.

Don't give thieves a chance:

- **Treat your keys like cash.** Never leave your keys unguarded.
- **Always lock your doors and close the windows.** Even if you're only away from your vehicle for a few minutes.
- **Park in secure, well-lit areas.** When possible, try to park in areas near pedestrian traffic.
- **Remove valuables from your vehicle.** If it can be stolen, put it in the trunk.
- **Wait for garage door gates to close behind you.**
- **Remove your garage door opener from your vehicle as it acts as a second key to your home.** Deny offenders the opportunity to gain access to your garage door opener by treating it like any key - bring it indoors with you.
- **Use an electronic engine immobilizer or steering wheel lock.**
- **Don't store a spare key in your vehicle.**
- **Vehicle alarms** will draw attention to would-be thieves with sirens, beeps and other loud noises. Some systems will also trigger flashing lights.

[If you see something, say something!](#)

Public safety is everyone's responsibility—and it's easy. The best way to do your part for public safety is to get connected to your neighbourhood, pay attention to what is going on around you and report any criminal or suspicious activity to the police!