

# VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION



Even with today's busy schedules, we need to stay diligent when it comes to preventing car related crimes. Auto theft is almost always classified as a crime of opportunity. As such, we need to practice good preventative measures in order to eliminate this opportunity and to make our car less desirable to the criminal.

## Why do people steal cars?

The most common reasons are the following:

- Transportation: This occurs when a thief needs to get from point A to point B.
- Joyriding: Often juveniles will steal a vehicle merely for the excitement factor.
- Parts: Vehicles are stolen for their parts.
- Resale: Vehicles will be stolen and sold to unsuspecting victims for profit.

## What do I do if my car is stolen?

You must report it immediately to the jurisdiction where the theft occurred and the report must be made in person.



## The Club

Locking your doors, rolling up windows AND a steering wheel locking device are effective auto theft deterrents. This is especially true when would-be auto thieves see devices like The Club®. The Club® is the original patented vehicle steering wheel lock and the #1 selling mechanical anti-theft device for cars and trucks. The Club® brand is synonymous with automotive security.

The Bellevue Police Department has a limited number of Clubs® available upon request at no charge. If you are interested, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at [CrimePrevention@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:CrimePrevention@bellevuewa.gov).

## THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

- When leaving your vehicle, lock all the car doors and roll up all the windows.
- Hide your valuables out of sight (leaving valuables in view may make your car more desirable to steal).
- Never hide a set of keys inside the car. This invites a car prowler to become a car thief.
- Parking strategies  
Park in well lit areas.  
Park where there is high pedestrian traffic.  
Park in lots with parking attendants.
- Always turn the car off when you get out of it. Do not leave it running while you get gas, walk over to a mailbox, or use the ATM machine.
- To avoid theft by towing:  
Turn wheels towards the curb.  
Set the parking brake.  
Leave manual transmissions in gear.
- Park inside your garage.
- Consider disabling your vehicle if it will be left for an extended period of time.
- Replace T-shaped door locks with straight ones so that thieves cannot grab them with a tool through a small opening in the window.
- Use your alarm.
- Consider purchasing some of the following after market security items: 1) A security alarm system that can disable the vehicle if activated, 2) A Kill switch, 3) A steering wheel, floor board, gear shift, or tire lock and 4) A vehicle tracking system such as OnStar or LoJack.

## Bellevue Police Department

Crime Prevention Unit

425-452-6915

[CrimePrevention@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:CrimePrevention@bellevuewa.gov)

[www.bellevuewa.gov](http://www.bellevuewa.gov)

450 110th Ave NE

Bellevue, WA 98004