

# Help **Stop** Stealing from Vehicles

1. Always lock your vehicle and pocket the key. Don't hide spare keys — they can be found.
2. Roll windows up tight.
3. Some thefts from vehicles can occur at night right in front of your home. Install outside lights with motion detectors where you park your vehicle.
4. Some thieves specialize in lifting door lock buttons with a coat hanger or similar tool, so consider purchasing smooth, non-flared inside lock buttons for your vehicle's doors.
5. When shopping, lock parcels and other valuable property in the trunk. (If your vehicle does not have a trunk, try to make sure that parcels are covered or not in plain view.)
6. Never leave your purse, vehicle registration card, or other valuables unattended in a vehicle.
7. Cut the backs of inspection stickers and city stickers to prevent their removal from the windshield.
8. Anti-theft style lug nuts can be purchased to prevent a thief from stealing wheels and tires.
9. Do not leave valuables such as clothing, gym bags, or cameras in plain view. Remember, anything of value could be stolen.
10. If you have a citizens band radio or car phone in your vehicle, consider buying a locking slide mount so you can remove these items when you leave the car.
11. Consider buying an anti-car theft device or a car alarm.
12. If you hear the sound of breaking glass, look to see what it was, and then call 911.



## **Alexandria Police Department Crime Prevention Unit**

2003 Mill Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 838-4520