

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

Protect yourself if your vehicle is stolen. Immediately report the theft to the Richland County Sheriff's Department. We will need a complete description of your valuables. Please record this information in the spaces below and keep this pamphlet in a safe place, other than the vehicle.

YEAR _____ MAKE _____

MODEL _____

COLOR, UPPER/LOWER _____

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER _____

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER _____

IGNITION KEY NUMBER _____

INSURANCE CO. _____

POLICY NUMBER _____

AGENT _____

TELEPHONE _____

ANY OUTSTANDING FEATURES: DENTS,
SCRATCHES, ETC. _____

LIST CONTENTS (stereo system, tools, contents
of trunk/glove box) _____

OTHER IDENTIFICATION (such as business card
in door panel, hidden initials) _____

Is this what your vehicle looks like to a thief?



**Report any suspicious activity to the
Richland County Sheriff's
Department at (803) 576-3000
or 911.**

**Visit our Web site for more
information at www.rcsd.net.**

**RICHLAND COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
WWW.RCSD.NET (803) 576-3000

LEON LOTT, SHERIFF



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Motor Vehicle Theft and Prevention



**CAR THIEVES LIKE TO
WINDOW SHOP AS
WELL.**



KEEP IT SAFE.



KEEP IT HIDDEN.



KEEP IT LOCKED.



Motor Vehicles and Crime Prevention



Crime = Opportunity

As your Sheriff I am asking you to help us protect you and reduce theft from and theft of motor vehicles. The information in this brochure can help you reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Please take a few minutes to read and use the safety information in this brochure.

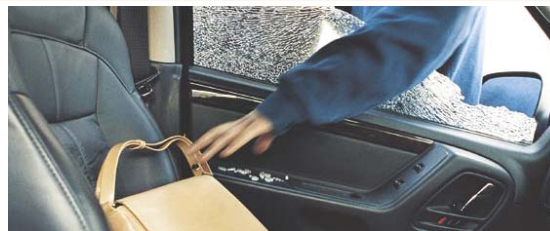
Please call the Richland County Sheriff's Department Community Action Team at 576-3118 or go to www.rcsd.net for more information on how you can protect your family.

To reduce the risk of becoming a victim of motor vehicle theft:

- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the keys inside.
- Whether in the vehicle or not, keep the doors locked at all times.
- Never leave the vehicle unattended while the engine is running (while warming it up on cold days, stepping into a convenience store, etc.).
- Have more than one way to secure your vehicle, such as an alarm system or a device to lock your steering wheel and/or pedals.
- Keep a copy of your registration in your wallet or purse. If your vehicle is stolen, the vehicle information will need to be available for police.
- Never keep your vehicle title in the vehicle. It should be kept in a secure safe place.
- Never leave important personal papers in your vehicle. (If stolen, this could lead to identity theft and/or fraud.)
- Put your emergency brake on when you park your vehicle and turn your wheels so they face the curb. (Car thieves sometimes use tow trucks to steal vehicles. With brake on and wheels turned, thieves will have a more difficult task at hand.)



To reduce the risk of becoming a victim of larceny from motor vehicle:



- Never leave anything in plain view inside the passenger compartment (such as shopping packages, CD's, purses, cell phones, GPS devices, etc.).

- Always remove your valuables and/or personal items (stereo faceplates, cell phones, CD's, wallets, purses, GPS systems, laptops, cameras, etc.) from the vehicle.
- Place valuables in the trunk while you are out shopping. Avoid transferring items to the trunk of a vehicle where it is to be parked. A thief may be watching. Checkbooks, credit cards or other credentials, which a thief could misuse, should not be left in a motor vehicle.
- Report all suspicious activity.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- If you have a garage, use it. Lock your garage door. Also lock your vehicle doors, even when it's in the garage.

To reduce the risk of becoming a victim of carjacking:

- Be constantly aware of your surroundings.
- Be aware of who may be watching you.
- Keep doors locked and windows up.
- Don't stop to help motorist with vehicle trouble. Notify local authorities to help.
- While stopped at red lights, leave room between you and the vehicle ahead of you. This can be an escape route if needed. (Stop far enough back so you can see the bottom of the tires on the vehicle in front of you.)
- Be suspicious of anyone approaching your vehicle.
- If your vehicle is struck from behind, stay in it with the doors locked until police arrive.
- If you feel you are being followed, drive to an area with lots of people and lights and call 911.

