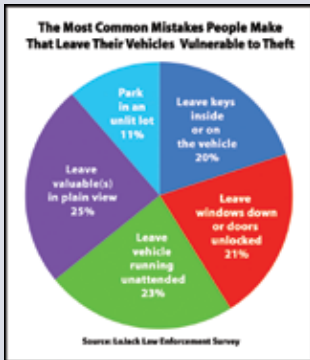




# How secure is your vehicle?

## A few minutes, a few dollars go a long way

**A motor vehicle is stolen every 28.8 seconds in the USA. The price tag is \$7.5 billion! The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reports that Michigan ranks 5th in auto theft – 50,000+ per year – after California, Texas, Florida, and Arizona.**



**“WHEN VEHICLE OWNERS ARE ARMED WITH KNOWLEDGE, they make it much more difficult for professional thieves – who are responsible for most vehicle theft – to steal their vehicle or its contents,” reports the NICB. Following these simple guidelines will significantly reduce your risk.**

- **Don't** leave your car unlocked.
- **Never** leave your car running, especially while unattended or unlocked.
- **Do not** leave a spare key in or on your vehicle. Many people keep a spare under the car in case they get locked out. Thieves know exactly where to look. Getting locked out of your vehicle is a pain, but think of the hassle of having your car stolen.
- **Never** leave your windows open when you are not in the vehicle, not even a crack during scorching hot summer.
- **Park** in well-lit, public areas. Avoid poorly lit areas or places not readily visible by the public. This will not only keep you safe when you exit the vehicle, it will keep the vehicle safer since thieves tend to avoid highly visible areas.
- **An audible** alarm system and visible anti-theft device are well worth the investment. Car thieves tend to avoid cars that attract attention.
- **Install** a vehicle immobilizer system such as a fuel cut-off or smart key. Without such devices, thieves can bypass your ignition by “hot-wiring” your car.
- **Consider** installing a GPS tracking system. The system emits a signal that police can track to determine its location. This may help police recover your vehicle more quickly as well as minimize damage.
- **Don't** leave valuable personal property in your vehicle. It only takes seconds to smash a window and grab purses, phones, laptops, stereos, CDs, etc. Keep valuables out of sight in the trunk or under the seat.
- **Trust** your instincts. If you are wary of a location or see someone loitering in a parking lot, park elsewhere.

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