

The Disclaimer

We are not trying to provide three hours of seminar training in one small brochure, and we strongly encourage everyone to attend a formal self-defense seminar in your area if you can, but we hope these tips may help you in the mean time.

The best form of self-defense is getting involved. Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood or when you're out and about. Be a part of your neighborhood watch, or be the genesis of one in your area. Be a good neighbor to the elderly on your street or in your building. All of these things develop a caring and compassionate community that will respond effectively in a crisis....all things that opportunistic criminals want to avoid.

The tips and techniques we present are far from exhaustive, may have more suitable alternatives for your particular circumstances, and may not apply in your "neck of the woods." Use them as a guide to start you thinking along safety and security lines without getting overly paranoid.

Let us know if you think we should add, or amend, any of the included tips.

Community Patrol USA

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the techniques and information provided and discussed in this document. At the time of printing and presentation this document the materials are, to the best of our knowledge accurate however anomalies, omissions, and factual errors may exist. This document may be modified at any time without prior notice either in part or in full.

Community Patrol USA is a not-for profit group run entirely by unpaid volunteers who have a focus and commitment to enhancing and improving the safety and security of the communities they live and work in.

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COMMUNITY PATROL USA

EZ-DEFENSE

Vehicle Theft



Share with family, friends and colleagues to help keep everyone a little safer.

SAFETY IS A COMMUNITY EFFORT

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Vehicle Theft Safety Tips

DISCOURAGE THIEVES

- Install an alarm and keep it well maintained. Some alarms will even text you when it is activated.
- Install a “Low Jack” or similar electronic GPS tracking device to allow police to track and locate your vehicle if it is ever stolen.
- Lock all doors, activate your vehicle and close all windows and sun roofs when you leave your vehicle, even just for a “short moment.” NEVER leave your keys in the ignition when leaving your vehicle. Do so even when you vehicle is parked in your own garage at home.
- Park in security patrolled garages when possible. If not possible, seek out well travelled and well lit areas to park in. Look for broken auto-glass on the ground when you park. If you see it, consider moving your vehicle to a street which doesn’t show signs of prior vehicle break-ins.
- Report any, and all, suspicious people in your neighborhood, or in the area where you parked your vehicle. Anyone walking along next to vehicles and peering into each. Anyone on the roadside on a bicycle or in a vehicle doing the same thing.
- Install security cameras at home to survey your property and the street.
- Form a neighborhood watch and post safety zone signs in your street.

DON'T LEAVE THEM ANYTHING OF VALUE

- **NEVER, EVER** leave anything of value in your vehicle for any reason. If you don't want to lose it – Don't LEAVE it!
- **NEVER** leave anything visible within the passenger compartment. Loose change, and empty shopping bag, an old sweater, some loose piles of paper – all have been reasons thieves have broken vehicle windows in the past. \$400+ to repair your broken window is rarely worth the value of what you left visible in your vehicle. Stow it or take it with you.
- **REMOVE** all electronics cables, adaptors and mounts from view as they simply encourage thieves to break you window in the hope of finding the actual device within the vehicle.
- If you **MUST** leave anything of value in your vehicle for a time, move it to the trunk **BEFORE** you drive to your destination to park. Thieves often watch victims move valuables to the trunk when they park, and simply wait until the victim leaves, before they retrieve the valuables from your trunk.
- **DON'T** leave anything with your name or home address within the vehicle. Carry a copy of your insurance and registration in your wallet or purse. If your vehicle is stolen, and the thieves are stopped by police, they will have an impossible time identifying the rightful owner of the vehicle.

IF THE WORST HAPPENS

If your vehicle is broken into, or actually stolen, report the loss immediately to police. Even if they only broke your window but did not take anything, your report will help police build a pattern of where the thefts are occurring and when. That may help them to target certain areas and ultimately identify and arrest the culprits who are often responsible for multiple thefts in the same area.

BE SURE that you have all of your documents at hand so that you can provide the necessary information to police.

Let your neighbors know if your vehicle is targeted as they may well be targeted next, and increased vigilance by your neighbors may help identify the culprits and secure an arrest.

IF YOU SEE A CRIME IN PROGRESS, INCLUDING A VEHICLE BREAK-IN:

CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS, CALL YOUR POLICE AGENCY NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER TO REPORT YOUR CONCERNS.