

If you have the ability to do so, park your car in a closed and locked garage. Before leaving your parked car take the following precautions to reduce the possibility of having it prowled:

- Always remove the keys. Roll up the windows and lock the doors.
- All valuable items should be removed from your vehicle and taken into the house. If valuables must be left in your car, keep them out of sight.
- Remove the garage door opener from your car. It could give thieves easy access to your home.
- Mount CD players, tape decks, CB radio, car phones, etc., inconspicuously. Whenever possible, use mountings that allow you to take the equipment with you.
- If your car is stored in a carport or parked near your house, leave your exterior house lights on throughout the night. One 60-watt incandescent light bulb left on all night costs about 0.1 cents per hour; including the bulb replacement cost.
- Consider installing a motion light near your car. Motion lights are good psychological deterrents since the normal assumption of a person seeing a light come on is that someone has seen them.
- Consider a car alarm system, they range greatly in cost but even the inexpensive models can be a good investment. Remember to be neighborly and respond to the alarm promptly if it sounds. False alarms can result in both you and your neighbors ignoring the alarm. A faulty system may tempt you to leave the alarm off, so shop around before purchasing an alarm system.

Report suspicious person(s) or activity that occurs in the parking lot. The sound of breaking glass may mean a car prowler is occurring.

Do Not Confront Suspects! Get a good description and call: 911 immediately!

If your car is “prowled” (broken into), report the incident to 799-3000, even if you decide not to report it to your insurance company. The Police Department needs your assistance to determine the areas that are experiencing car prowler activity. This helps determine how to allocate resources best.