



## 10 Car Break-In Prevention Tips

### 1. Keep your car visible

Park in well-lit areas, near people or somewhere with a parking lot or garage attendant on duty. Avoid having your car concealed by larger vehicles, fences or foliage; thieves like to work in private. It's a good idea to have plenty of lighting in front of your home.

### 2. Don't make it easy

Keep windows and sunroofs closed and **doors locked**. Almost one-fourth of thefts are from unlocked cars.

### 3. Activate your vehicle's alarm

Don't have one? Factory-installed anti-theft systems are best, but a professionally installed alarm can discourage a car break-in thief who likes to work in silence.

### 4. Hide your valuables

Many smash-and-grab thieves act on impulse. So keep your stuff out of sight – either with you or in a locked trunk. Don't count on the glove box; thieves know to look there, and they're easy to break into. If you have a wagon or SUV that leaves your cargo area open, get a retractable fitted cover to keep shopping bags or other belongings hidden.

### 6. Don't hand a thief your keys

Take your keys with you. And if you think you have a great hiding place for a spare key, think again: Car break-in thieves know to look above the visor, in the center console, under the floor mat, in the trunk well, etc.

### 7. Stow your stuff before arrival

Experienced thieves often stake out parking lots to watch for people putting items in their trunk. Help prevent car break-ins by putting valuables – like laptops, messenger bags, and electronic devices – into your trunk before you get to the parking lot.

### **8. Stash the evidence, too**

After you've put your stuff in the trunk, don't forget such telltale evidence as power plugs, MP3 adapters, and navigation system windshield suction-cup mounts. Thieves know what they're looking for, so hide the electronic accessories, too.

### **9. Garage Door Opener**

Don't leave your garage door opener visible.

### **10. Trust your instincts**

If you see suspicious activity, find another spot to park. If you're concerned, tell the attendant or report your suspicions to Suwanee Police at 770/945-8995. You may be helping to keep another person from being a victim of a car break-in – or worse.