



PASCO SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Vehicle Burglary Prevention

One of the easiest ways citizens can protect themselves from becoming a crime victim is to follow some simple vehicle burglary prevention safety tips:

- ALWAYS LOCK YOUR DOORS! More than 66 percent of all Pasco vehicle burglaries involve unlocked car doors!
- NEVER leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle. Citizens often leave cash, jewelry, cellphones, laptops, purses, wallets, backpacks, GPS systems, cameras, and other valuables in plain sight inside a vehicle. This is too tempting for thieves, and even if your door is locked, they won't hesitate to break your windows to steal these items.
- NEVER leave documents that contain personal information in your vehicle, such as bank statements, credit card statements, and other financial statements. These can be used to steal your identity!
- If you can, park your vehicle(s) in your garage. If this is not an option, keeping the area around your vehicle well-lit can help to prevent an auto burglary.
- DO NOT leave purchased goods in sight in the vehicle as you continue to shop, especially during the holiday seasons. Lock them out of sight in the trunk or take them home before you continue your shopping.
- Car burglars know if your vehicle doesn't have a trunk, such as in an SUV or truck. Don't think you can hide valuables inside such vehicles. Thieves know where to look!

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Vehicle Burglary Prevention (cont.)

- Away from home, park in well-lit areas in a highly visible location. If you see something suspicious, find somewhere else to park.
- Always report suspicious behavior to the Pasco Sheriff's Office, such as someone looking into parked cars or trying to open several parked car doors.
- Keep a list of serial numbers of any electronic equipment in your vehicle, such as a car stereo or DVD system. This can assist law enforcement in returning any equipment to you that is stolen.
- Utilize a car alarm.

Common Threats

A car burglar can break into your car in 30 seconds or less and thieves often practice the same method to burglarize vehicles:

- Watching and waiting for people to leave their car only for a short time, like at a gas pump, daycare, or grocery store.
- Hitting numerous cars in parking lots where citizens are preoccupied, such as at a movie theater, beach, festival, or concert.

For more information

If you are a victim of a car burglary, DON'T touch anything, and call 9-1-1 immediately for assistance. For more information about crime prevention, please contact the Pasco Sheriff's Office Community Relations section at 1-813-994-3845 or visit us at www.PascoSheriff.com under the Community Service link, on Facebook, or download our new cell phone app.