

- ⇒ Never leave your official title in your glove box or vehicle. You do not want a car thief to simply sign the vehicle over to themselves.
- ⇒ License plate theft is a common crime as unlicensed drivers are always out to get a legitimate-looking tag. To keep your tag from being stolen, secure it with multiple screws.
- ⇒ Tag decals are also a target. You can prevent this by using a razor blade to remove old stickers before applying a new one. Once the new one is applied, use the razor blade to put an "X" through the decal so it cannot be removed in one piece.
- ⇒ Gas prices fluctuate. In times of high prices, do not keep gas cans in the back of your pickup unless you want them to be stolen.
- ⇒ Use a locking gas cap if your vehicle does not have a securing latch over the gas tank access. This will prevent someone from siphoning or tampering with your gas.
- ⇒ Remember, **Lock It or Lose It!**

CONTACT US:

9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

352-955-1818 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

ACSO Important Phone Numbers

ACSO Main Administration	352.367.4000
Crime Prevention Unit	352.374.1800
Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty	352.372.7867
Dept. of the Jail	352.491.4444
Evidence Section	352.367-4076
Human Resources	352.367.4040
Narcotics Tip Line	352.374.1849
Patrol	352.367.4101
Public Information Office	352.367.4050
Property Unit	352.367.4078
Records Bureau	352.367.4006
Victim Advocate Unit	352.367.4199



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Sheriff Emery A. Gainey

P.O. Box 5489, Gainesville, FL 32627
 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL 32641
<https://www.acso.us>



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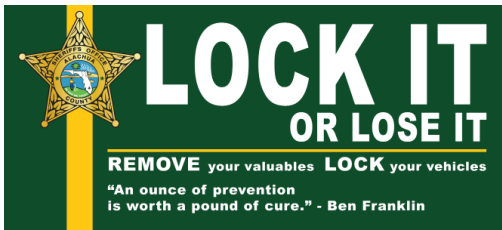


ACSO 2023

ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT!



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT!

ATTENTION: RESIDENTS OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Vehicle burglaries are an all too common occurrence in Alachua County. However, like any burglary, they are a crime of opportunity. Thieves look for vehicles with open or unlocked windows and doors because they are a perfect target for a quick theft. Even if the vehicle is locked, a determined thief will not hesitate to use force if there are valuables within plain sight. Visible loose change in an ashtray or center console can be enough motivation for a criminal to smash the window and make off with your possessions.

THE CRIME TRIANGLE

Crime involves three elements: the *desire* to commit the crime, the *ability* to commit the crime, and the *opportunity* to commit the crime.

The only element you can truly alter is opportunity.



VEHICLE BURGLARIES

Why would you go to all of the trouble to secure your home and outbuildings and then forget to secure one of your most valuable assets - your vehicle?

Vehicle burglaries are difficult to solve as there is usually little to no physical evidence left behind by the suspect. These crimes tend to occur in the early morning hours in apartment and business parking lots where the suspect is unlikely to be seen.

PREVENTION TIPS

- ⇒ Keep your vehicle locked, even if you think you live in a crime-free neighborhood. The simple act of locking your car doors is the easiest and best defense against a burglar. If your car doors are locked, the burglar is far more likely to pass up your vehicle and look for an easier target.
- ⇒ When you get out of your car, make sure all access points (windows, doors, skylights, trunks, hatchbacks, etc.) are secured.

- ⇒ Never leave valuables in plain sight. Leaving purses, wallets, cellphones, tablets, laptops, GPS systems, or even loose change provides motivation for the burglar to choose your vehicle. A simple brick or rock through a window is all it takes for the burglar to gain access to those items.
- ⇒ This goes for charging cables too, as a burglar may see them and decide the valuables are elsewhere in your car and therefore worth their trouble to break in.
- ⇒ Always park in a well-lit, well-traveled area, away from shrubbery or fence lines that obscure the view of your vehicle.
- ⇒ If you have a car alarm, use it.
- ⇒ Never leave your car running while you dash into a convenience store. Take the time to close and lock doors and windows. Take your keys with you.
- ⇒ If you have expensive rims and/or tires, consider investing in locking lug nuts.
- ⇒ Turn your stereo down! A loud stereo is not just a nuisance, it is a rolling advertisement that you have a high-dollar sound system.
- ⇒ Avoid placing stickers or logos for your sound system on your windows as this is also an advertisement for thieves.