

Anti-Theft Devices

Vehicle Alarms— A car alarm can be a deterrent to some thieves, however, a professional car thief can often work quickly enough to override the alarm. The type of alarm that disables the car is the most effective alarm. Also, an LED light installed in a visible place on the dashboard will help deter amateurs.

Steering Wheel Locks— These types of devices are a good deterrent to the inexperienced car thief. When properly affixed, the device limits steering wheel movement, making the vehicle nearly impossible to operate.

Steering Column Sleeves— A steering column sleeve is a metallic device that is placed around the steering column. This is a useful device because many cars can be started by breaking the plastic casing of the steering column and starting the vehicle without a key.

Immobilizers— Thieves can bypass your ignition by “hotwiring” a vehicle. Some immobilizers that can be installed are:

- Keys that contain a computer chip. that must be present to state the vehicle
- Kill switches.
- Starter, ignition, and fuel disablers.

Police Services

Resources

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	636-529-8210
TTY Hearing Impaired	636-529-8220 or 911

Precincts

North County	314-615-4297
Central County	314-615-0111
Affton-Southwest	314-638-5550
South County	314-615-0162
City of Fenton	636-349-8120
City of Wildwood	636-458-9194
West County	636-225-0425
City of Jennings	314-385-4672

Important Phone Numbers

Auto Crime Unit	314-615-5383
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The St. Louis County Police Department is interested in citizen's opinions about our agency and its employees. Please visit the website below and take our survey.

www.stlouiscountypolice.com/citizen-resources/citizen-satisfaction-survey/



stlouiscountypolice.com

Vehicle Theft Prevention



St. Louis County Police Department
7900 Forsyth Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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Prevention Measures

Each year, more than one million vehicles are stolen in the United States – about one vehicle every 30 seconds. To help ensure that you will not be victimized, utilize the helpful tips provided in this brochure and decrease the probability of your vehicle becoming one of the statistics.

- DO NOT leave your keys in the car, nearly 20 percent of all vehicles stolen have the keys in them.
- Make sure your windows are rolled up tightly.
- If your automobile is equipped with an alarm, ACTIVATE IT! It can be effective.
- Park in well lit areas and with the front wheels turned sharply to the left or right. This will prevent a thief from towing your vehicle.
- Place valuables such as phones, purses, and shopping bags out of sight, by placing them in the trunk or taking them inside the house at night. If you cannot replace it, do not leave it in your vehicle.
- Pay attention to your surroundings and what is going on around you.
- Report any suspicious activity as soon as possible by calling 911.

What Do They Take?

The items most often stolen from vehicles include:

GPS devices, audio/visual equipment, mobile phones, personal electronic devices, purses/wallets, sunglasses, checkbooks, cameras, spare change, compact discs, power/hand tools, briefcases, gym bags, and auto parts such as car batteries.

A proactive way to increase the chances of your property being recovered and returned to you, if it were stolen, is to record the models and serial numbers of each item. Additionally, an Owner Applied Number, a number of your choosing that is separate from the serial number, can be applied to each item. DO NOT use your social security number for this purpose.

What Does St. Louis County Police Do to Prevent Auto Thefts?

The St. Louis County Police Department participates in a Bait Vehicle Program. The program is designed to reduce auto theft through the deployment of a number of bait vehicles, targeted at “hot spots” or serial offenders. By doing so, the department is able to apprehend auto thieves in a manner that minimizes risks to responding officers as well as the general public.

Personal Safety Tips

- Be cautious of strangers lingering in the area. Always have your keys in your hand, ready to unlock the door. Once inside your car, immediately lock the doors, start the car, and drive away.
- If you are confronted by someone who wants your car, do not resist their demand. Give them the car and run for help. DO NOT GO WITH THEM!
- If you witness suspicious activity CALL 911 and try to get a description of the suspect(s) and their vehicle, however DO NOT confront the suspects.
- Criminals do not like light. When possible, park your car in well lit areas. Also, check your surroundings when walking to and from your car.
- Do not park next to a large truck, dumpster or anywhere thieves could be hiding.