

Car Prowl Prevention Tips



Vehicle Prowls occur in Tacoma whether you are at home, shopping or even at your place of business.

In 2006, 9663 thefts and 3601 auto thefts were reported in Tacoma. A Car Prowl is the theft of property from your vehicle.

YOU CAN FIGHT BACK

Always lock your vehicle.

Don't leave valuables visible from outside your vehicle. Lock items in the trunk or remove them. A good rule of thumb is to view each item as though it were the pile of money it would take to replace it, would you

leave \$1000 cash on the front seat of your car? If not, then why would you leave an item worth \$1000 there? A criminal looks at your items that way. Your wallet/purse could easily be valued at 10's of thousands of dollars if you look at the credit cards, ID theft potential, and aggravation involved in recovering from all of that. Look at your car seat as you exit your vehicle, what "pile of money" did you leave behind?

Record serial numbers and keep them in a secure place, not in the car.

Park in well-lighted places.

Report suspicious people and activity to 9-1-1.

Install a car alarm system or physical security deterrent such as a "club" type of device.

Install and use removable stereo/electronic equipment and a portable GPS.

Vehicle prowlers often drive through parking lots looking for cars with open windows or unlocked doors. Criminals also look for valuables left out in the open. Cellular phones and stereo equipment are prime targets.

A large number of vehicle prowls in Pierce County occur when a car door is left unlocked.

For your safety, make it a habit to secure your car before departing, whether it's at home, shopping or at the office.

Vehicle prowls only take a few moments, and even less when a car is left unlocked. Anything can be stolen—even an old blanket casually tossed on the back seat of your car. When considering what to lock up, keep in mind an old blanket may not mean much to you, but a person living on the streets may consider it to be priceless.