

Safety and Security Tips from SEAL Security:

Avoid Becoming a Victim of Auto Theft & Burglary

In Texas, a vehicle is stolen every five minutes and burglarized every two and half minutes, according to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. *In 2010, Texas was the third state with the highest number of stolen vehicles.* Forty percent of vehicle thefts are due to driver errors with only 52 percent of vehicles being recovered. Here are a few tips to prevent vehicle theft and burglary.

Take Your Keys. Never leave your keys anywhere in the car and never have a second set hidden somewhere in your vehicle. Experienced thieves know where people may hide their keys. It is never a good idea to leave your keys in the ignition, even for just a few minutes. Cars are often stolen from convenience stores, gas stations or when the driver leaves the vehicle running.

Lock Your Car. Almost half of all stolen vehicles were left unlocked. Even if you're leaving your car for a minute, lock doors and close windows. Make it a habit to check that doors and windows are locked and closed before departing from your vehicle. Keep your trunk and glove box locked at all times. If possible, make separate keys for the ignition, trunk and glove box.

Park in Well-Lit Areas. Thieves prefer unattended parking lots and dark areas, because there are less chances of there being no witnesses. Find an

attended or well-lit lot, heavily trafficked area or a garage when running errands and going out.

Do Not Leave Items In Sight.

Items left in the open may tempt thieves thus making your car a target. If you must leave items inside your car, hide them from sight or put them in the trunk.

Vehicle & Personal Documents.

Avoid leaving vehicle and personal documents in your car. Carry these with you if you need them, otherwise personal and vehicle documents can be used by thieves to steal your identity, car or even burglarize your home.

Beware of Suspicious Persons.

If you see someone who appears nervous, pulling vehicle door handles, looking in windows or bumping into vehicles (checking for alarms), notify law enforcement immediately.

In the case that your vehicle is stolen, again, report it to the police. Be ready to provide them with the vehicle year, make, model, color, vehicle identification number (VIN) and license plate number to increase chances of recovery. It is also important to let S.E.A.L. Security know when an incident like this occurs. S.E.A.L. Security officers are on the lookout for suspicious activity and act as a deterrent to prevent vehicle theft.



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