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Auto Theft Prevention Advice

Here are a few common sense steps that can help you reduce becoming a victim of auto theft or a theft from auto:

- Never leave your car running and unattended, even to dash into a business
- Never leave your keys in the car or ignition, even inside a locked garage
- Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk out of sight.
- Always park in a high-traffic, well-lighted area, if possible
- Install a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake pedal to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Commonly called clubs, collars, or J-bars, these devices can act as a highly visible physical deterrent if installed properly
- Investigate the purchase of an auto alarm system if you live in a high-theft area or drive a theft-prone vehicle. Display an alarm decal near the door handle.
- If you park in a fee garage, take the pay-ticket with you. It's the thief's ticket out of the garage, too.
- If you use valet parking, leave just the ignition key with the attendant. Make sure no identifying information is attached to the key. Do the same when you take your car for repairs
- Carry your drivers' license, registration, and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle
- Copy your license plate and vehicle identification (VIN) numbers on a card and keep them on you with your driver's license. If your vehicle is stolen, The Sheriff's Department or the local police of the community where the theft happened will need this information promptly.

For more information on crime prevention education you may visit our website at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/index.asp