

Prevention of Auto-theft and Carjacking

Every day thousands of people around the world have their vehicles stolen or vandalized. Auto-theft and carjacking are usually crimes of opportunity. Knowledge and prevention can inhibit these unlawful acts.

When parking the vehicle

- Whenever possible, park your car in a well-lit parking lot. Avoid parking on streets.
- Even if it is for just a few seconds, do not leave your vehicle unattended with the engine idling, keys in the ignition or doors unlocked.
- Do not leave objects in plain sight; store them away in the trunk. Avoid doing this after you park your car.
- Avoid leaving car keys with a valet or parking attendants.
- If you decide to park on the street, be careful and observe your surroundings, especially at night.
- Use anti-theft devices, such as steering wheel locks, car alarm systems, etc.
- When installing car stereo or video system, prefer equipment with anti-theft devices and covers.
- Always check if your windows and doors are locked before leaving your vehicle, even when you park at home.

Returning to a parked vehicle

- Walk with purpose and stay alert
- Before entering your car, look inside. More specifically the front and back footwell.
- When approaching and before entering your car, check for anyone suspicious standing around. Have your keys out and ready before reaching your vehicle.
- Upon entering, lock your doors immediately even before starting your engine.



When in Traffic

- Keep your doors locked.
- Avoid driving through unfamiliar, deserted, or high-crime areas - especially at night; even if this means longer routes.
- Know the location of police stations in the areas you are travelling through.
- Store emergency numbers on your phone
- If your vehicle is impacted by rocks or other objects, do not stop. If necessary, go to a police station and file a police report.
- If you are rear-ended or bumped in a suspicious manner or high-crime area, do not stop. Slow down and assess the situation, jot down the other car's tag number and description. If the situation makes you uneasy, signal the other driver to follow you. Drive to the nearest police station.



While in traffic

- When stuck in traffic, maintain a safe distance from the vehicle ahead. This will allow you to maneuver in the event of an emergency.
- If you are threatened by armed criminals, do not resist or try to negotiate. Obey their instructions and give them what they want.
- During traffic jam, scan and pay attention to the surrounding environment.
- According to crime stats, discussing, confronting or chasing an armed criminal most of the times increases violence and consequences for the victim.



Planning your routes, maintaining yourself aware of your surroundings and taking preventive measures significantly reduce your risk of falling victim to urban crime.

See you at the next edition!

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