



Think Prevention!

ALWAYS LOCK YOUR VEHICLE!

- Lock it and pocket the keys. Nearly 20% of all vehicles stolen had the keys in them. Remember to lock the trunk, the hatchback or the tailgate of a station wagon or sport utility vehicle.
- Never hide a second set of keys in the vehicle. Extra keys can easily be found if the thief takes time to look. Store spare key in your wallet/purse.
- If possible, avoid parking next to vans, pickup trucks, and other large vehicles. These large vehicles can hide your car and make it more difficult for others to observe.
- Periodically check your license plates to make sure they haven't been stolen, switched or altered.
- Whenever possible, park in a well lit and busy area.
- Whenever possible, park in an attended lot. Motor vehicle thieves do not like witnesses and prefer unattended parking lots.
- On cold mornings, never leave your motor vehicle running unattended, in order to warm up.
- Avoid transferring items to the trunk of a vehicle where it is parked. A thief may be watching. Checkbooks, credit cards, or other credentials, which a thief could misuse, should not be left in a motor vehicle.
- Park as close as possible to your home or a business you are entering.
- Don't invite a vehicle break-in by leaving packages or valuables (cellular phones, CD players, etc.) in sight. Take valuables with you or put them under your seat.
- Don't disconnect the buzzer that warns of keys left in the ignition. It's for your protection.

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Clay N. Whittle

