

## Did You Know?

A vehicle is stolen every 49 seconds in the United States and every 39 minutes in the State of Maryland.

Each year, Almost 700,000 vehicles are stolen in the United States and over 10,000 vehicles are stolen in the State of Maryland.

50% of the stolen vehicles had the keys inside the vehicle.

60% of the vehicles stolen were left unlocked.

95% of the vehicles stolen had no anti-theft devices.

66% of vehicle thefts occur at night.

22% of all stolen vehicles are not recovered.

## The Key to Preventing Theft Is In Your Hands

Lock Your Car  
Take Your Key  
Use an Anti-Theft Device



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Vehicle Theft Prevention Council  
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# Lock Out Car Theft

## The Key to Preventing Theft



**MARYLAND**  
**VEHICLE THEFT**  
**PREVENTION COUNCIL**

**"YOU HOLD THE KEY"**

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

[MDAutoTheft.org](http://MDAutoTheft.org)

# Preventing Vehicle Theft Is Easier Than You Think!

A thief doesn't like to be seen, or heard or delayed. That's why they take the easy route. Is your vehicle a potential target?

To make your vehicle a tougher target, use the **"Layer Approach"** to vehicle theft prevention. The more layers you use, the tougher it will be for a thief to steal your vehicle.

## Layer 1 Common Sense

The Common Sense approach is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart thieves. Here are the basics of the Common Sense approach:

- lock your car
- take your keys
- **NEVER** leave your car unattended and running
- park in well-lighted areas
- close your car windows completely
- don't leave valuables in plain view
- don't hide spare keys in/on the car
- keep your registration card with you
- park your car with the wheels turned towards the curb
- rear wheel drive vehicles should be backed into a driveway
- front wheel drive vehicles should be parked front end first in a driveway
- if you have a garage, use it and lock it
- use public parking for short durations

## Layer 2 Visible and Audible Deterrents

There are many devices designed to alert thieves that your car is protected, such as:

- audible alarms
- steering wheel locks
- brake pedal locks
- steering column collars
- tire locks
- window etching

**LOCK YOUR CAR  
AND  
TAKE THE KEYS**



## Layer 3 Vehicle Immobilizers

Vehicle Immobilizers prevent thieves from bypassing the ignition and hot-wiring your car. Examples of these devices include:

- smart keys
- fuse cut offs
- kill switches
- starter, ignition and fuel disablers

## Layer 4 Tracking Systems

These high-tech devices are designed to be hidden in your vehicle and, when activated, will emit a signal that the police can monitor and use to locate your vehicle.

Don't let this happen to your car.  
Protect your investment from  
theft by employing the  
"Four Layer Approach."