

Don't Let Thieves Steal Your Christmas

A message from the Federation of Calgary Communities



The Christmas season is prime time for car prowlers and thieves. Gifts and valuables in vehicles can make their jobs easy. Here are a few tips to help reduce your risk:

When you exit or enter your parked vehicle, stop and take a look around the area.

Before leaving your parked car, always remove the keys, roll up the windows and lock the doors.

- Park in a well-lit area, use parking lots frequented by others
- Put all valuables and gifts in your trunk. If that's not possible, conceal gifts and other valuables.
- Try not to unload gifts in your vehicle and then leave it unattended in the same parking spot. Car prowlers might be on the lookout for shoppers traveling back and forth from stores to unload gifts.
- Never leave your car running unattended.
- If you park in an attached garage, always lock the door leading from the house to the garage and the garage door.
- If you don't park in a secure garage at home, don't leave gifts in cars overnight to keep them secret.
- After opening an automatic gate to underground parking, wait for the gate to close before you park.

Prevent crime by reporting suspicious behaviour to police at 403 266-1234. Call 911 for a crime in progress.

If your car is broken into:

- Inventory missing articles for later use with the police or an insurance claim.
- Report online at www.calgarypolice.ca/onlinereporting or in person at a district office. Even if there's little chance of catching the suspect, alerting the police can help prevent somebody else's car from being prowled.

Special thanks to the Crime Prevention Unit at the Calgary Police Service for their input.