

What to do if your vehicle is stolen

Even if you use every layer of protection suggested, your vehicle may still be stolen. Taking the following steps in advance to be prepared may ultimately help law enforcement recover your vehicle quickly and reduce your costs:

- Notify law enforcement immediately. Time is essential with auto theft. Be prepared to provide the vehicle's make, model, color, license plate number and VIN (Vehicle Identification Number).
- Keep a copy of your vehicle registration and insurance card in your wallet. You'll be able to provide information quickly to law enforcement and insurance agents.
- Make your vehicle easier to identify. Etch the VIN on all window glass of the vehicle or drop an index or business card with your information in the window slot.
- Review your insurance policy annually. Don't wait until your vehicle is stolen to realize you don't have the necessary coverage.
- Call 9-1-1 as quickly as possible if you see someone tampering with your car.



Contact Us

For more information on this and other department services, contact:

Pima County Sheriff's Department
Community Resources Unit
(520) 351-4615

or



Also visit our website for...

- Online crime reporting
- Local crime mapping
- Crime prevention tips
- and more....

Together we can make a difference.



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Pima County
Sheriff's Department

*Keeping the Peace and Serving the
Community Since 1865*

AUTO THEFT

AVOID BECOMING AN AUTO THEFT STATISTIC



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What is the problem?

Auto theft is a serious problem across the country and in Pima County specifically. In one year alone, there were 956,846 vehicle thefts reported across the country. 37,218 of those were in Arizona. Both Phoenix and Tucson metro areas are ranked in the top 50 in the nation for highest vehicle theft rates year after year. Arizona's population growth and proximity to Mexico remain primary factors that significantly impact vehicle theft rate and other criminal activity.



Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons. They may be stolen simply as a means of transportation. Stolen vehicles are frequently used to facilitate other criminal acts such as residential and commercial burglaries, robberies, check and credit card fraud, identity theft, illegal drug trafficking and drive-by shootings. Additionally, most vehicles are stolen at night when a victim won't know of the theft until hours later.

Layers of Protection

Take the following "layered" approach to protecting your vehicle:

Layer 1 - Common Sense

The common sense approach to protection is the simplest and most cost-effective way to deter would-be thieves.



- Lock your car and take your keys - half of all vehicles stolen are unlocked.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Park in attended lots when possible.
- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended.
- Completely close all car windows.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view.
- Do not hide a spare set of keys in the car.
- Park with your wheels turned to the curb to make your car harder to tow away.
- Always use your emergency brake when parking.
- If you have a garage, use it - when you do, lock both the vehicle and the garage door.

Layer 2 - Warning Device

Use a visible or audio device to alert thieves that your vehicle is protected. Here are some of the more popular devices:

- Audible alarms
- Steering wheel locks
- Steering column locks
- Brake or tire locks
- Watch Your Car decals
- Identification markers in or on your vehicle
- VIN etching on vehicle windows



Layers of Protection

Layer 3 - Immobilizing Device

The third layer uses devices that prevent thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring the vehicle. Popular devices include:

- Smart keys
- High security lock & keys
- Fuse cut-offs
- Kill switches
- Starter, ignition and fuel disablers



Layer 4 - Tracking Device

The final layer of protection is a tracking device that emits a signal to a police or monitoring station when the vehicle is reported stolen. They are very effective in helping authorities recover stolen vehicles.



Report it!

If your vehicle is stolen contact the Pima County Sheriff's Department by calling 9-1-1 immediately.

Register your vehicle with the "Watch Your Car Program" at www.azwatchyourcar.com