

Stratford Police Department News Release

For Immediate Release: Public Service-Stolen Vehicle Prevention

The Stratford Police Department has seen an upswing in stolen vehicles over the past quarter. Below are some tips to help prevent your car from theft.

WHAT ATTRACTS A CAR THIEF?

- Leaving your car unlocked or the windows down.
- Leaving your keys in the car or a spare key hidden in the car.
- Leaving your car unattended.
- Parking in poorly lit places with low visibility.
- Leaving valuables and packages in your car.
- Cars not protected with an anti-theft device.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CAR

- Don't leave your keys in your car.
- Close your windows and lock your doors whenever you leave your car, regardless of how long you plan to be gone.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Keep your car in a garage if you have one.
- Park in lots that have attendants.
- Use an anti-theft device whenever you leave your car .
- When parking your car, turn your wheels toward the curb to make it more difficult for a thief to "tow" your car.
- Use your emergency brake when you park.
- Engrave your driver's license number preceded by the state letters (WA D.L.) or your car's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on any removable equipment in your car.
- Replace "T-shaped" door locks with straight locks so thieves cannot grab them with an implement through a crack in the window.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity to the police (for a non emergency contact 203-385-4100)

Notably, some of the most popular cars being stolen according to recent statistics are Honda and Acura products. Several scooters and mopeds have also been targeted. Other makes and model vehicles have also been taken.

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