

Preventing Vehicle Prowls:

- Always lock your vehicle and keep the windows rolled up.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle in open view. Secure them in the trunk or take them out.
- Park your vehicle in the garage or in a well-lit driveway.
- If your vehicle must be on the street, park it in a well-lit area as close to the front of the residence as possible.
- Park in well-lit busy areas of parking lots.
- Use a locking gas cap to prevent fuel theft.
- Report suspicious activity to the police immediately.

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This brochure was prepared by the Richland Police
Department Crime Prevention Unit

As part our continued effort in:

*"Pursuing Innovative Solutions to Issues through a
Partnership with the Community."*

For more information about crime prevention,
please contact the Richland Police Department
Crime Prevention Office at 942-7636.

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VEHICLE THEFT AND PROWL PREVENTION



RICHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



IN THE UNITED STATES A VEHICLE IS STOLEN EVERY 33 SECONDS.

In 2013, Yakima, Washington, which is approximately an hour away, ranked number 1 in the state for auto thefts.

Top 10 Stolen Vehicles in Washington

(2012 per National Insurance Crime Bureau):

- 1996 Honda Accord
- 1995 Honda Civic
- 1994 Acura Integra
- 1996 Subaru Legacy
- 1990 Toyota Camry
- 1999 Ford Pick-Up (Full Size)
- 1999 Chevrolet Pick-Up (Full Size)
- 1994 Nissan Sentra
- 1996 Chevrolet Pick-Up (Small Size)
- 1992 Ford Explorer

These vehicles are targeted by thieves because the vehicle parts are very valuable; and because they are easier to break into and start.

PREVENTING AUTO THEFT

The National Insurance Crime Bureau recommends a four-layer approach to vehicle theft protection.

Layer 1..... Common Sense

- Always lock your vehicle.
- Keep keys out of the vehicle.
- Park your vehicle in the garage or in a well-lit area.
- Never leave your vehicle running unattended, even for a “minute.”

Layer 2..... Deterrent Devices

- Use an audible deterrent such as a vehicle alarm system.
- Use a visible deterrent such as a steering wheel lock, steering wheel column, or wheel lock
- Other visible deterrents include anti-theft window decals and window VIN etching

Layer 3..... Vehicle Immobilizer

- Consider using a device to immobilize your vehicle so thieves can't start it such as a smart key, a vehicle kill switch, or disabler.

Layer 4..... Vehicle Tracking System

- Consider having a tracking system in your vehicle that will provide the GPS coordinates of the vehicle to police, in the event it is stolen.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Carjacking: Taking a Vehicle by Force

- Park in well-lit areas with good visibility
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially in parking lots, gas stations, and intersections
- Don't fight for your vehicle, your life is worth more than your car.

Bump-and-Rob: Someone bumps into your vehicle and when you get out, another person jumps in your vehicle and drives off.

- Call police when you are involved in a collision.
- Look around before you get out of your car. If you feel uneasy, wait in your vehicle for the police to arrive.



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