



How to Prevent Items from Being Stolen from Your Vehicle

Each year, Officers from the Oswego Police Department take many reports for car burglaries. During the majority of these incidents, the victim's vehicle was unlocked and valuable items were left inside the car. Last year, in addition to entering unlocked vehicles, offenders implemented new tactics to increase their success. Officers found there were several incidents in which the offenders utilized the garage door opener to gain access to the resident's garage and the vehicles parked inside of the garage. On a few occasions after accessing the garage, the offenders were brazen enough to even enter the victim's home.

The Oswego Police Department continues to make efforts to educate residents on how to protect their cars from being burglarized; however, we need your help. This correspondence is intended to act as a reminder of the various measures you can take to prevent your car(s) from being burglarized.

- **Always lock your vehicle:** A locked vehicle makes it more difficult for a thief to take your valuables.
- **Remove valuables:** Remove your laptop computer, GPS and other valuables from your car. An empty car is less likely to draw the attention of a would be thief.
- **Conceal belongings:** If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, cover them or place them in a closed container. Additionally, security blankets or shields will remove these items from plain view. Inform your children to cover their belongings or place them under their seat. This will ensure items are not seen through the vehicle's windows.
- **Remove keys from your vehicle:** Surprisingly, there have been several incidents in which residents left their car keys in an unlocked vehicle. In at least one case after an offender entered a victim's garage, a vehicle was stolen because the keys were left in the car.
- **Remind teenage household drivers to lock doors:** Communicate with all drivers within your home, especially teenagers, the importance of locking their car doors and adhering to the other precautions.

We hope these suggestions will save you the potential frustration and financial loss encountered after having valuables and treasured items stolen.