



Palm Beach Police Department

Kirk W. Blouin, Director of Public Safety

Crime Prevention Bulletin Auto Burglary Prevention Tips

Non-Emergency (561) 838-5454

In any Emergency call 9-1-1

The Palm Beach Police Department is investigating reports of several auto theft and auto burglaries that have occurred in the past six months. In most of these cases, taking small security measures could have prevented these crimes. Please remember that auto burglary is a crime of opportunity that can happen anywhere. Use these safety tips to help reduce your chance of being victimized whenever you leave your car—whether in Palm Beach or anywhere else. Please share these safety tips with your friends, family members and neighbors.

- ✓ **Don't leave valuables in your car**— This sounds like common sense , but drivers or passengers do leave items of value in plain view every day. Any time you leave something visible in your car, it becomes a target. Use this rule of thumb —**if it can be seen—it can be stolen.**
- ✓ **Remove and secure valuables before you reach your destination**— Do not wait until you park your car to remove and secure your valuables. Your actions could be observed and you could be telling a potential thief exactly where to find your property.
- ✓ **Leave nothing in plain sight that might make your vehicle worth "investigating" by a thief** - Don't leave signs of valuables such as docking stations or cables for cell phones, ipods or navigational devices.
- ✓ **Never leave your keys inside your vehicle** - Seven vehicles have been stolen from the Town of Palm Beach in the last six months. With the exception of one case, each vehicle was unlocked with the keys left inside. Don't create the opportunity for a thief to take what is yours. Always take your keys with you.
- ✓ **Lock your vehicle** — The increase of auto thefts typically leads to the increase of auto burglaries. In every reported case during the past six months, vehicles were left unlocked and no force was used to gain entry. Items of value were left in plain view inside the cars. Fortunately the keys were not left inside of these automobiles or there would have been more stolen vehicles
- ✓ **Turn on your alarm system** — If your vehicle is equipped with an alarm system or other anti-theft device, take advantage of this feature and use it.
- ✓ **Report all suspicious persons, vehicles or activity immediately**— Do not wait to confirm your suspicions with a friend or family member. Trust your instincts and call police right away. You can use the Palm Beach Police Department's non-emergency phone number (561) 838-5454 or in any emergency call 9-1-1. When outside the Town of Palm Beach report suspicious persons to the local police agency.
- ✓ **For more information**— Please call the Palm Beach Police Department's Business & Community Relations Unit at (561) 838-5467.