

Other Safety Tips:

- Mark your valuables.
- Record your car's VIN number.
- Use anti-theft devices.
- Do not have a key ring with your name on it.
- Report **any** and **all** suspicious activity by calling the Berrien County Dispatch Center at 983-3060.

Motor Vehicle Larceny Prevention Tips

Prevention is your best protection against crime.



(269) 429-6890

HOW PRACTICING PREVENTION BENEFITS YOU!

- Your windows do not get broken.
- Your insurance rates do not go up.
- Your Township has a lower crime rate.
- You don't have to shop for replacement items.
- You don't have to order another driver's license, credit cards, etc.
- Your car will not need repairs.
- You don't expose yourself to identity theft.
- You don't have to wait for reimbursement from your insurance company.



ST. JOSEPH CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

3000 Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 147
Saint Joseph, Michigan 49085-0147

Phone: (269) 429-6890
Fax: (269) 429-7303
www.sjct.org/neighborhood_watch.htm

MOTOR VEHICLE LARCENIES ARE PREVENTABLE

Most thefts from motor vehicles are preventable. There are just a few things you need to do to prevent them. Once you realize the steps you need to take, we are counting on you to do them on a daily basis!

Practice T. L. C.

Take Out Valuables

If you can leave your valuables at home, do it. Otherwise, when you get to your destination, take your valuables with you. If you have to leave them in your automobile, put them in your trunk before you get to your destination.

Lock Your Vehicle

Enough said !

Close Doors and Windows

An open door or window allows a thief a quick and quiet way to enter your automobile. Take the time to make sure you closed everything.

WHY MOTOR VEHICLE LARCENIES?

The increase in motor vehicle larcenies is part of a national trend. The reason motor vehicle larcenies are on the rise is because people make it far too easy for a thief to



gain access to their vehicle and make it so tempting to attempt entry by leaving valuables in plain view.

Thieves can quickly enter vehicles, often sight unseen. Many use the stolen items to help them get drugs to support their addiction. Increasingly, we are finding that thieves are using personal information found in vehicles to commit identity theft.

COMMON STOLEN ITEMS

You might be surprised just what thieves are looking for, or what victims make available to them:

- Cameras, Laptop Computers, Cell Phones
- Car Stereos, Mail, CD's, Purses
- Vehicle Registrations, Money, Jackets
- Gym Bags, Luggage, Briefcases
- Garage Door Openers, Etc.

LOCATION

You can often choose where you park your vehicle. It is important to be aware of where you park.

Thieves are looking for vehicles they can enter with the least possibility of someone watching and thereby alerting police.

Ideally, the best place to park is in your locked garage. Otherwise, here are other important factors to consider:

Don't

- Don't park where others cannot see your vehicle.
- Don't park in all-day unattended parking areas.

Do

- Park in well lighted areas.
- Do join a Neighborhood Watch.
- Do park in clearly visible areas.

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