



Window Shopping

Each year over \$1.25 billion in personal items and accessories are stolen from vehicles in about 1.85 million thefts nationwide according to the most recent statistics. By employing some basic precautions we can attempt to minimize these "window shopping" thefts. Remember, it only takes seconds for a thief to take what they want, so don't give them the opportunity!



Lock your doors!

While this piece of advice seems like common sense, up to a quarter of vehicle thefts nationally are from unlocked cars, according to statistics available from law enforcement agencies. Even if you're running into the store for a quick cup of coffee on a cold winters day or a hot summer afternoon, that's too long to leave your vehicle's contents open for the taking. Simply locking the doors will deter those who might just be waiting around for an easy target.

Keep it neat!

Almost any seemingly worthless personal item that's visible from the outside -- even an empty shopping bag -- could be seen as a carrier of valuables. Don't leave anything in plain sight, no matter what you think the value to be. If you have a wagon or SUV that leaves your cargo area on display, consider getting a cover. Most of these vehicles can be fitted with inexpensive retractable covers to help keep shopping bags or other belongings out of sight.