



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



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Holiday Season Safety Tips

Do not let your holidays become a happy holiday for criminals! **Crime increases during this time of year.** Do not become a victim! Follow some simple crime prevention tips, be safe, and enjoy the holidays.

Away from Home

ALWAYS lock the windows and doors of your vehicle. Majority of the time windows or doors are left unlocked. Don't create an easy target.

Stay aware of your surroundings at all times. Criminals look for people that are preoccupied on their cell phone, placing bags in their vehicles, or looking down when walking. Stay alert!

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Limit the number of credit cards you carry. Use credit cards whenever possible. If you must use cash, carry different amounts in different pockets limiting exposure of the entire amount to a potential thief.

Discourage pick pockets by taking precautions with your purse and wallet. At the mall, carry your purse close to your side, or if your purse has a strap, across your chest in front of you. Place your wallet in your front pocket where it's harder for criminals to reach.

Always shop with a friend or two (the buddy system). Shop during daylight hours when possible. If you must shop at night, park close to buildings and under lighting. If you are alone, have a mall or store employee escort you to your vehicle.

As you approach your vehicle, have your keys ready, look under your vehicle, into the back seat and then the front seat. Get in quickly and lock the doors. Start your car and move to a different, well-lit location to arrange your packages or wait until you get home. If you see a piece of paper on your windshield or back window, do not get out immediately to remove it. Drive to a safe location to remove it unless it obstructs visibility.

DO NOT TEMPT THE THIEF! Leave nothing inside your car for others to view. Remove items from the inside of your car and you remove the target that criminals look for. If you drive an SUV or Mini Van, cover your packages so that they are not visible from the outside.

The San Gabriel Police Department would like everyone to follow one final tip: It is our mission to protect the citizens that we serve and we **NEED** our community to be the eyes and ears of the police department. When you see suspicious activity, please contact the San Gabriel Police Department at (626) 308-2828.

Vehicle Security Tips

YOU CAN PREVENT CAR THEFT!

Most cars are taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily. Protect your car against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions:

Lock up

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. Lock up when you leave your car, and take the keys with you.
- Lock the trunk or tailgate.
- Close all windows – professional thieves have tools that unlock cars through the smallest openings.
- Be sure all windows are shut tight and locked.
- When you park the car, remove cellular phones, purse and other valuable possessions. Do not leave gift-wrapped packages or cameras lying on the seat. Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.
- Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or restaurant.

Park carefully

- Don't leave an auto in unattended public parking lots for an extended period. A car is five times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot than from the street or attended lot.
- If possible, park your car in a lot where you don't have to leave your keys.
- Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your car and your home. If you have to leave your keys with a parking attendant, leave only the ignition key.
- At night, park in well-lit areas with lots of people around.
- Turn wheels sharply toward the curb when parking, this makes it extra difficult for thieves to tow your car.
- Keep the vehicle registration in your wallet or purse, not in your car.

Use anti-theft devices

- When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options, such as interior hood and trunk releases, locking steering columns and others.
- Consider the purchase and installation of security devices, such as:
 - Interior hood lock release.
 - Second ignition switch or "kill switch" to prevent electrical current from reaching the coil distributor.
 - Fuel switch to prevent fuel from reaching the carburetor.
 - Locking gas cap.
 - Locking devices for batteries, wheels, decks, etc.
 - Alarm device to activate a siren, horn or lights or all three to frighten the thief away.
 - Device that attaches to the steering wheel or brake pedal.

If you notice anything suspicious or out of place call the San Gabriel Police Department at (626) 308-2828 (non-emergency) or 9-1-1 (emergency)