# Steps To Take If Your Vehicle Has Been Broken Into

1. Try not to touch the vehicle. (Fingerprints may have been left by the perpetrator.)
2. Try to recall all items which were stolen.
3. Call the Montgomery County Department of Police at 301-279-8000. (Note: The report may be taken over the phone, but it is always important to report the crime.)
4. If a Police Officer will be dispatched to your location, please wait for his or her arrival.

# Important Phone Numbers

### District Community Service Officers

1st District .....240-773-6070
2nd District .....240-773-6700
3rd District .....240-773-6800
4th District .....240-773-5500
5th District .....240-773-6200
6th District .....240-773-5700

**Central Auto Theft**
**240-773-6370**

**Police Emergency ..... 911**
**Non-Emergency..... 301-279-8000**

# Information Requested When Reporting a Suspicious Situation

### Description of Person(s)

- Age
- Race
- Sex
- Height and Weight
- Clothing
- Other distinguishing characteristics (facial hair, tattoos, glasses, etc.)

### Description of Vehicle

- License number
- Make and Model
- Color
- Other distinguishing characteristics (damage, dirty, etc.)
- Direction of travel

### What Occurred

- Provide as detailed account as possible of the incident

### Where Did Incident Occur

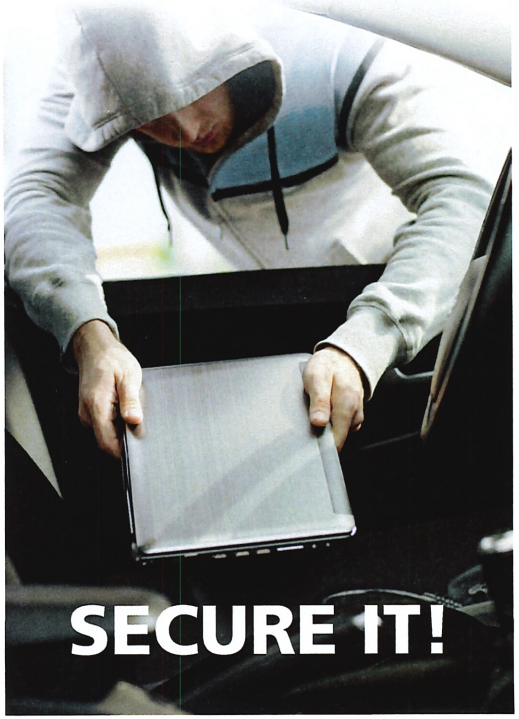
- Provide specific street numbers when possible or where you will meet an officer in a parking lot, etc.


**Department of Police**
**100 Edison Park Drive**
**Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878**
**www.mymcpnews.com**


**Montgomery County, Maryland**
**DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**

# Prevent THEFT FROM VEHICLES

**"If They Can SEE IT, They Can STEAL IT!"**



# Theft From Vehicles

Many residents and visitors to Montgomery County are victims of the growing problem of theft of property from vehicles and the theft of parts from vehicles (tires, mirrors, etc.)

The vast majority of these thefts are preventable. Here are some recommendations to reduce the chance that the thief will choose your car, truck, van, etc.

1. **Lock your doors and close the windows completely.**

   An open door or window is an invitation to take any property in your vehicle.

2. **Remove valuables from vehicle or lock them in the trunk where they are out of sight.**

   Leaving valuables in view form the outside is just the opportunity a thief is looking for.

3. **Do not leave electronic devices or accessories visible.**

   A cigarette lighter plug or cassette adapter are tell-tale signs there are valuables in the car. Also replace the cigarette lighter when exiting the vehicle.

4. **Report any suspicious persons to the Police.**

   If you observe activity which may be criminal in nature, immediately report it to the Police.

4. **Do not leave money in your vehicle.**

   A thief will break into your vehicle even for a small amount of change.

5. **Park in your garage (if you have one.)**

   If you have a garage at your house - use it. If a thief cannot get to your car he cannot break into it. (We also have many cases, where a thief removes a garage door opener from an unlocked vehicle and then enters the home.)

6. **Do not hide a key on your vehicle.**

   A potential thief could see you hide the key, and then use your key to gain entry into your vehicle.

7. **Record serial numbers of any equipment you install or carry in your vehicle.**

   This will assist the Police in investigating the theft and will help in recovering your property. (Note: The Operation Identification Program, which includes engraving all theft prone items with your driver's license number is also suggested.)

8. **Install an anti-theft device that has a visible indicator.**

   A flashing light or stickers informing a thief of a device may be enough to deter a potential thief from selecting your vehicle.

9. **Do not leave key fob in your vehicle.**

   Your vehicle will not lock with the fob inside the vehicle.

# Items Frequently Stolen From Vehicles

- Cellular Phones
- Money
- Briefcases
- Clothing
- Purses/Wallets
- CD Players, CDs
- GPS
- Laptop Computers
- Sporting Equipment