

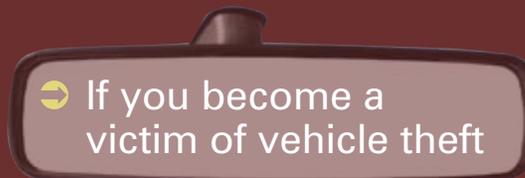
## ➔ Additional preventative measures

23. Have a vehicle tracking system installed to easily locate your vehicle if missing or stolen.
24. Have your VIN # engraved on your vehicle and on expensive accessories for easy identification.
25. Slide a card with a secret codeword into a vehicle window, so it drops down into the door panel. Giving this codeword to police is another way of identifying your vehicle.
26. Don't hide a spare key on your vehicle. Thieves know all the hiding places.
27. Check your license plates daily to make sure they haven't been switched or stolen.
28. Keep your vehicle and tires in good condition to prevent a breakdown—and stranding you in some dark and unfamiliar place.
29. Recreational vehicles need protection, too. Lock and secure motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, trailers, boats, jet skis, motor scooters, and bicycles with a heavy-gauge chain and padlock that are strong enough to resist steel handsaws and hammers. Store in a secure location when not in use.

# 30.

Remove all papers with your personal information (name, address, social security #, birth date, etc.) from your vehicle, including your mail, bills, checkbook, etc. Carry your vehicle registration with your driver's license. Leave only a copy of your registration in the vehicle with your address blacked out. **Keep your vehicle title (pink slip) safely at home.**

➔ Prevent thieves from finding out where you live and/or stealing your identity.



➔ If you become a victim of vehicle theft

Report the theft immediately to the police, and give detailed information that identifies your vehicle or stolen items:

- ➔ License plate # and VIN #
- ➔ any identifying features that make your vehicle distinctive (stickers, window decals, dents, etc.)
- ➔ and any special items of value (phone, radio, GPS system, CD player, CB radio, tire brand and size)

If you feel threatened,  
call 9-1-1.



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# 30 TIPS

## TO PREVENT VEHICLE BREAK-INS, THEFT, AND CARJACKING

PREVENT BECOMING A VICTIM BY  
FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE TIPS



[www.sfsafe.org](http://www.sfsafe.org)



"I like making my car a tough target for thieves. That's why following SAFE's theft prevention tips makes so much sense to me. I've used these tips for years." —Judy Winter, San Francisco

## ➔ Before leaving your vehicle

1. Prior to parking, lock any items, bags, or packages in your trunk. Remove, or hide from sight, small items of value—phone, charging cords, camera, GPS, money, etc. The best way to prevent a break-in is to leave your vehicle looking empty.

## ➔ When parking

2. Choose a well-lit area with plenty of pedestrian traffic or a parking attendant nearby.
3. Remember or write down where your vehicle is parked to avoid searching for it.
4. Leave only your ignition key with a parking attendant. Keep other keys with you.
5. If you have an anti-theft device or vehicle tracking service, use it.
6. If you have a garage, use it. Wait until the garage door closes all the way before driving away, especially if you share a garage with others. Be aware of suspicious people hanging out by the garage doors.
7. Always lock your vehicle, close windows and sunroof completely, and take the keys.

## ➔ Before getting in or out of your vehicle

8. Have your keys in hand.
9. Be aware of your surroundings. Always look around, and be alert.
10. Leave the area if you have any suspicions.

## ➔ While driving

11. Keep your doors locked and windows closed.
12. Remove all valuables from easy reach by placing them on the floorboard or in a compartment out of sight.



13.

Stay alert at red lights and stop signs. Check your mirrors often, and be aware of anyone approaching your vehicle, even if they seem harmless.

14. When stopped, avoid being boxed in by other vehicles.
15. Be on the alert for unexpected distractions. One thief may try to get your attention, while another attempts to rob you.
16. Never leave your vehicle running unattended, even for a second. It's against the law.
17. If you see a vehicle parked by the side of the road and someone is waving for you to stop, continue driving and report the incident to 9-1-1.

## ➔ If you are being followed by another vehicle

18. Drive immediately to a populated area or a police or fire station.
19. If your vehicle is boxed in and you feel threatened, lean on your horn and flash your lights to draw attention.
20. Use your cell phone to call 9-1-1. Be prepared to give your location first, and the vehicle's description.

21.

Make protecting yourself your most important habit, and protecting your vehicle and possessions will be a bonus.

**Carjacking is a violent crime where a vehicle is taken from a person either by force or the threat of force.**

22. If a carjacker threatens you (with a weapon or not), do not resist. Immediately give up your vehicle, go to a safe place, and call 9-1-1. In most carjackings, the attackers are only interested in the vehicle, not in hurting the driver.



**Using common sense is your best defense.**

The more mindful you are of simple precautions, the less likely you are to become a victim!