

PREVENT HOME & AUTO THEFT

Home Theft

Sign Up:

One of the most effective methods of protecting your home is a home security system.

They can be quite expensive and not an option for many people. For a more affordable alternative try putting a home security sign in your yard without actually obtaining the service.

The sign convinces would-be burglars that your home is in fact protected by a security system, which makes them less inclined to target your property.

Just think from a burglar's point of view: 'Am I going to break into the building or the home that has a security system?' 'Or am I going to go next door to the one that doesn't?' "

Beware of the Garage:

Garages are a common entry point for burglars.

Open garage doors serve to advertise your belongings to passersby, which increases the likelihood of theft. So, homeowners should make sure the garage door remains closed anytime they aren't present. Take away the attractive appeal to what someone might want to steal.

Be A Neighbor:

Neighbors can play a key role in preventing home thefts.

Homeowners on friendly terms with their neighbors are less likely to be victimized by other members of their community.

At the same time, closely knit neighbors are more likely to call the police if they see someone suspicious poking around your property.

If they like you and they care about you and they are concerned about their community, then if they see something unusual going on then they will check it out or call the police.

So don't be a hermit: Get out and interact with your neighbors.

Keep Valuables Outside The Bedroom:

A burglar on the hunt for valuables in a home will make the master bedroom their first stop—since that's where the cash and jewelry are most commonly stored. So if you do keep such valuables on your property, find another room to store them.

No land Escaping:

Burglars prefer to target homes that have hiding spots and escape routes in the yards, and abundant bushes and trees make for great cover. As a result, yards with less shrubbery and more open spaces aren't particularly appealing targets. If the home is open and relatively exposed, a burglar will think, 'I'm going to go in, and if

something goes wrong, how am I going to get out of here?'

Install Motion Sensors:

Light is a great deterrent for nighttime break-ins. Homeowners should install motion sensors on outdoor lights that turn on automatically if someone triggers them. Motion sensors are relatively inexpensive to buy and install.

Radio Running:

Noise helps prevent burglaries as well. Leave the radio on all day so that would-be burglars think that someone is at home. Your home is more likely to be burglarized during the day because they think that nobody is home

Free Police Inventory:

Homeowners should be sure to remember the basics of home-theft prevention: keeping windows and doors locked at all times. For homeowners looking to go a step further, contact the local police department and have an officer stop by the house for a safety checkup.

Auto Theft

Each year, auto theft costs Canadians \$600 million. One of the best ways to combat auto theft is with good old-fashioned knowledge, so we've compiled a list of ways automobile owners can keep their vehicles safer.

Why is automobile theft a problem?

Theft of vehicles and their components costs Canadian policyholders almost \$600 million per year in insurance premiums.

Policyholders pay for the cost of theft through the Comprehensive portion of their premiums.

Theft accounts for approximately 50% of the amount paid by insurers for Comprehensive claims for new vehicle models.

Why are cars stolen?

Newer cars, sport utility vehicles and luxury cars are generally stolen to be shipped off-shore and resold in markets abroad. Three to eight-year old cars are generally stolen for their parts. Cars are also stolen to be used in crimes and for joyriding.

In 1998, 42% of the individuals charged with automobile theft were between the ages of 12 and 17 years.

Seventy-six percent of stolen vehicles are recovered, but most have been damaged.

Motor vehicle thefts make up 39% of all thefts in Canada.

How many auto thefts occur in Alberta?

Approximately 15,000 cars are stolen every year in Alberta. That's an average of 44 cars per day.

How does an ignition disabler work?

Ignition disablers immobilize your vehicle if a thief tries to override the ignition or ignition

disabler.

Ignition disablers do not need to be activated. The system arms itself seconds after the key is removed.

How can I prevent my car from being stolen?

Purchase and install a security system if your vehicle is not equipped with one from the manufacturer. Passive electronic immobilizers can cut theft of vehicles by almost 70%.

Always lock your vehicle.

Never leave your keys in an unattended vehicle, even for a short time. Vehicles are regularly stolen from store parking lots and gas stations.

Use good judgment in choosing parking locations.

Park in well-lit and busy areas, such as under a street light, in a lighted parking garage, or on a street with lots of traffic. Consider how lit or busy the area will be when you get back.

When parking at airports, and other large pay parking lots, never leave the parking **claim check in the vehicle.**

Never keep valuables, especially notebook computers and golf clubs, in your car.

Dismantle or lock your automatic trunk latch. Thieves who break into a car can easily access any valuables in your trunk using the internal trunk release. Dismantling it will help keep your valuables secure.

Use your garage. Keeping your car parked in your locked garage is one of the simplest ways to keep it away from would-be thieves.

If your vehicle is equipped with a security system, make sure it is in good working order and activated. Your owner's manual or dealership should be able to answer any questions about your system.

Factory installed security systems are sometimes deactivated when remote control starters are installed.

If you have a remote starter, or intend to have one installed, ask your installer how it will affect your security system.

When you're safely in the car, don't let your guard down. Lock all the doors.