



## LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster  
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603  
[www.lancasterpolice.com](http://www.lancasterpolice.com)

Author: Sgt. Todd Umstead

Contact Number: 735-3300

Date: December 17, 2008

### Theft from Vehicle Prevention

#### Theft from Vehicle Prevention

Unfortunately, the Holiday season has, in the past, been a time of increased incidents of thefts from vehicles. While the Lancaster City Police have not seen an unusually high number of incidents this month in comparison with past years, we would like to remind people to take extra precautions. Vehicles are easy targets and often contain property that is attractive to thieves that are looking to make some quick money. A large percentage of these crimes can be prevented. Items such as firearms, checkbooks, laptop computers, cell phones, GPS units, satellite radios, ipods and similar devices, pocketbooks, CD collections, cash, stereos and tools have been stolen from locked and unlocked vehicles. Many times these items were left in plain view inside the vehicle. A theft from vehicle victim usually has to repair damage to their vehicle, replace lost property and their insurance premium may go up. A few simple changes to some bad habits can help you become less susceptible to crime.

#### Securing Your Vehicle:

- Always lock your vehicle no matter where you are parking it. Thieves don't care if your vehicle is parked in your driveway, on the street or in a dark alley. If they see something they like, they will take it and if you leave your door unlocked, the job will just be easier for them.

#### Property Stored in Vehicle:

- Remove ALL property from inside of the vehicle. Property left in plain sight in a vehicle will increase the chances that someone will try to enter your vehicle. Store things in the trunk of the vehicle if you can not take it out, but do this before you get to your destination.
- Stereos that have removable faceplates are a great way to deter theft. Do not leave the faceplate in the vehicle or on the stereo. Remove GPS units and satellite radios. Take these items with you – thieves may see the mounting hardware and assume the GPS or satellite radio is still hidden in the car.
- Tools are commonly stolen from the back of pick up trucks. Tools, large and small, should be placed in a heavy-duty storage locker.
  - NEVER leave a firearm in an unattended vehicle.

#### Parking:

- Try to park your vehicle in a well-lit area that has a lot of foot or vehicle traffic. The more people that are around



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- Do not park your car in dark alleys or areas that are obscured or remote.

Be a Good Neighbor:

- Get to know your neighbors. Neighbors that look out for one another are a great way to keep crime down in your neighborhood. People that know you and your property will be able to pick out suspicious activity better than anyone else will.
- Be alert to suspicious people loitering in your neighborhood, especially if they are looking into car windows.

Call 664-1180 if you see any in progress suspicious activity

*(end of release)*