

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Tips!

Secure your vehicle with the following tips:

- Park your vehicle in a locked/secure garage, or a well light area if possible.
- Consider purchasing a quality video surveillance system and ensure your cameras are properly placed and functioning for 24-hour use.
- Lock the onboard diagnostic port using a simple device (that can be purchased online) that blocks access to where thieves reprogram the vehicle's key fob.
- When not in use, place vehicle key fob inside a radio frequency shielding bag/pouch to block cell signals.
- Always lock all your vehicle's doors and windows after entering and exiting it.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running, even for a few seconds. Turn off the ignition and take the keys with you.
- Invest in an aftermarket global positioning system (GPS) tracker as it may assist in recovery of the vehicle if it is stolen.
- **Vehicle Contents:**
 - Never hide a spare key in your car or outside your residence
 - Never leave personal identification or valuables in your vehicle
 - Remove technologic and removable accessories from view when not in your vehicle
- **Invest in anti-theft devices:**
 - Ignition or fuel kill switches
 - Steering wheel, gearshift, and hood locks
 - Steering column collar
 - Electric alarm

In Case of Theft

In case of theft, the CCSO encourages you to:

- Immediately call the Charles County Sheriff's Office and file a report:

Emergency: 9-1-1 or Non-emergency: 301-932-2222

- Record the following information and store in a safe place:
 - Year, make, model, and color of your vehicle
 - License plate and vehicle identification numbers

- Serial numbers for any special equipment
- Any dents or scratches that distinguish your vehicle from others
- Keep you title secured away from your vehicle

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