

It's More Than a Joyride: It's About Big Money

By the time you finish reading this paragraph, another vehicle will be stolen somewhere in the U.S. Vehicle theft is no longer a crime committed just by teenagers out for a joyride. It's a big business run by organized crime rings that are out to make huge profits, and they're doing it at your expense.

The latest statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that only 57.2 percent of stolen vehicles are ever recovered, and that number has been decreasing for the last three years. Sometimes these vehicles are recovered with significant damage to them. But oftentimes unrecovered autos wind up in the hands of organized criminals. From there, the vehicle might be:

- Shipped overseas and sold on the black market
- Stripped at a chop shop by criminals who then sell the parts or install them on other vehicles
- Resold to an unsuspecting consumer

Make no mistake. Vehicle theft is driven by money and greed. It's a dangerous business that victimizes everyone.

If you have information on vehicle theft activities, contact the NICB in one of three easy ways:

1. Text "FRAUD" and your tip to TIP411 (847411).
2. Call 1-800-TEL-NICB (1-800-835-6422).
3. Submit a form on www.nicb.org.

Your tip can be anonymous.

For More Information

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is the nation's leading nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated to leading a united effort of insurers, law enforcement agencies and representatives of the public to prevent and combat insurance fraud and crime through data analytics, investigations, training, legislative advocacy and public awareness.

Learn more about putting the brakes on vehicle theft on the NICB's Web site at www.nicb.org.



1111 E. Touhy Ave., Suite 400
Des Plaines, IL 60018
1.800.447.6282
www.nicb.org



Vehicle Theft

A Vehicle is Stolen Every 33 Seconds in the U.S.

Fraud Solutions **now.**SM

Fraud Solutions **now.**SM

Do the Math

An auto theft occurs every 33 seconds in the U.S. That's roughly 1 million vehicles each year that wind up in the hands of thieves at a cost of nearly \$6.4 billion.

So who pays for these crimes? Regardless of whether or not your auto is ever stolen, we all pay the price for vehicle theft. You, your coworker, your neighbor - we're all victims because we pay for this crime through higher insurance rates. According to the Insurance Information Institute, about one-fourth of a typical comprehensive auto insurance premium goes to pay for auto theft claims.

Without a doubt, vehicle theft is among the nation's most costly property crimes. It's a numbers game that adds up to each and every one of us having to pay hundreds of dollars each year in higher insurance premiums. And that's not an equation that works in our favor.

Even though most vehicles have factory-installed security systems, your car may still be vulnerable. The best line of protection is to install an additional anti-theft system to make stealing your vehicle more challenging for criminals. A range of solutions are now available on the market ranging from steering wheel locks to tracking systems. Whether you decide to spend \$10 or \$1,000, using more than one theft deterrent is well worth the investment in the long run.



Put the Brakes on Vehicle Theft

To protect yourself in cold weather, you put on layers of clothing to stay warm. It's no different when you protect your vehicle from thieves. By following a layered approach, you can put the brakes on vehicle theft. The more layers of protection you put on your vehicle, the more difficult it is to steal.

Layer 1: Common Sense

This one is simple and doesn't cost you a thing.

- Lock your doors
- Remove your keys from the ignition
- Close your windows completely
- Park in well-lit areas

Layer 2: Visible or Audible Device

We find vehicle alarms annoying when they go off. So do car thieves. More often than not, they avoid autos with alarms or anti-theft devices. Consider adding a visible or audible anti-theft device to your vehicle.

- Audible alarm system
- Identification markers in or on vehicle
- Micro dot marking
- Steering column collars
- Steering wheel/brake pedal locks
- Theft deterrent decals
- Tire locks/deflators
- Window etching

Layer 3: Vehicle Immobilizer

Thieves can bypass your ignition by "hotwiring" a vehicle. But you can put the heat on the bad guys by installing or utilizing a vehicle immobilizer system.

- Fuse cut-offs
- Kill switches
- Smart keys with computer chips that must be present to start the vehicle
- Starter, ignition and fuel disablers

Layer 4: Tracking System

Put your vehicle on the radar screen by installing a tracking system. A tracking system emits a signal to the police or a monitoring service when the vehicle is reported stolen. This added layer of protection can significantly improve the odds of your vehicle being recovered faster and with less damage.

The NICB has a partnership program in place so you can receive a discount on proven theft prevention and recovery products. Go to www.nicb.org for more information.

