

By following these simple steps you can greatly reduce your chances of being a victim;

- Don't leave valuables in your car.
- This sounds like "common sense", but if you leave items of value in plain view your car is automatically a target.
- If you must leave valuable items in your car, place items out of sight before reaching your destination.
- Plan your shopping / errands so that you don't load your trunk until you are ready to drive to another destination; never open a trunk, fill it full of valuables, close it, and then just walk away. If your trunk can be opened from inside your car without a key, lock this feature when you are not in your car or have it disabled.
- Leave no sign that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle, such as docking stations or connector cables, very few auto break-ins are random. If you have an after-market stereo/CD-player with a removable faceplate, remove it.
- Try to park in well-traveled and well-lit areas:
- Large lots are the preferred target of thieves, so try to choose a well-light, visible, parking spot where there is lots of vehicular and pedestrian movement when possible.
- Lock ALL your vehicle's doors and set your alarm or anti-theft device even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every year, the police take hundreds of theft reports from unlocked vehicles where the owner was only going to be gone "just for a second".
- As a last line of defense, mark your valuables. Recording serial numbers is a good idea, but many serial numbers are on removable "labels", rather than "engraved" into items. Don't use your social security number; use your driver's license number instead.

If you would like to mark your valuables and need an engraver, the Oak Park Heights Police Dept. can loan you an engraver. Please contact us at 651-439-4723 M-F 8:00 – 4:00 PM, to arrange for you to pick one up.