



NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE • COLUMBUS, OHIO
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Tips to Prevent Theft from Autos

The Columbus Division of Police would like to remind citizens to protect valuables that they must leave in their vehicles. Criminals are opportunists and will often steal items that are left in view by smashing a car window and running away. This technique is commonly called "smash and grab," and often there are no witnesses. By roaming area parking lots and streets, criminals can find numerous opportunities to steal laptops, cell phones and even purses or wallets inadvertently left in sight. Simply rolling up windows or locking your doors is not enough and can provide a false sense of security.

The Division is offering the following tips to help prevent you from becoming the next victim:

- Get into the habit of securing valuables while away from your vehicle. It will reduce the opportunities available for criminals and reduce your chances of becoming a victim.
- When possible, take your valuables with you. Laptop computers, purses, briefcases, cell phones and other small electronics are popular targets for thieves because they are easy to conceal.
- If you must leave your valuables in your car, secure them out of sight in a locked compartment or trunk.
- Always roll up your windows and lock your vehicle.
- Report any suspicious activity to the police immediately at 645-4545.

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