

Auto-Burglary Facts

Did you know it takes less than 30 seconds to break into a car, grab what is in plain view, check the usual hiding places for other items, and get away?

Most auto burglaries occur at night while the vehicle is parked outside the victim's residence. Some burglars also target vehicles that are parked in parking lots while their owners are at work, in class, or shopping. They know it's going to be a long time before the owner returns to their car and the likelihood of being caught is low.

Have you seen anything or anyone suspicious?

If you do see a suspicious person or action in your community, call the police via our non-emergency number at 732-390-6900, or call 911 if the situation requires emergency response.

Do not hang up!

Give an identifying description of the suspicious person or vehicle, such as:

Age / Sex / Race

Height & Weight

Hair / Facial hair

Clothing

Auto make, model, color, license plate number

Direction of travel

Activity

East Brunswick Police Department

Community Policing Unit

1 Civic Center Drive

East Brunswick, NJ 08816



Phone: 732-390-6938

Website: www.EBPD.net

E-mail: CommunityPolicing@ebpd.net

Leave a Confidential Tip

The East Brunswick Police Department has established a Confidential Tip Line to receive crime or suspicious activity information from concerned citizens.

732-4EBTIPS

or

tips@ebpd.net

“Street Smart”

Auto Burglary Prevention Guide



East Brunswick Police Department

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency: 732-390-6900

Auto-Burglary Prevention Tips:

- Don't leave valuables in your car. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target. Thieves will target purses, wallets, phones, laptops, GPS units and MP3 players, which are easily sold. Don't just think in terms of valuables, either. Shopping bags, coats, and other containers are all attractive to a thief, even if they aren't worth much, because of the possibility that they might conceal something that is, so don't leave them in view on the seats.
- Lock your vehicle's doors even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Items are frequently stolen from unlocked vehicles which allows for thieves to steal your stuff in seconds! It is not at all uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles or a side street and check vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked.
- Close all windows and sunroofs. It's not just because thieves might reach in through the gap and open your locks with a coat hanger. Open windows will disable the pressure sensor in some car alarms, leaving the vehicle more vulnerable to break-in and potentially giving thieves more time before the alarm sounds.
- If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your final destination if at all possible to avoid observation of any would-be thieves who might take notice.

- Avoid leaving packages or shopping bags visible in your car — lock them in the trunk out of sight if you have to leave packages in your car unattended. Plan your shopping so that you don't load your trunk until you are ready to drive to another destination.
- Once home, unload your valuables immediately. Don't store valuables in your car any longer than necessary, and certainly never overnight.
- If you carry tools or valuable gear in the car, ideally remove them from the vehicle overnight.
- Never leave your credit cards, mail or other important papers in your car, especially where visible. If stolen, you will be at risk for identity theft.
- Set any alarm or anti-theft device already installed in your vehicle before walking away. Many people believe that car-alarms no longer make a difference, but they can be an effective deterrent to an auto-burglar, who most often chooses the easiest target. A locked and alarmed car will likely be bypassed for one that is left unlocked and unalarmed unless valuables in plain view are too appealing.
- Do not attach personal information to your keys - If your keys are stolen, having your personal information or vehicle license number attached only compounds the problem. A criminal now may have access to your home, automobile or office.

- Don't use "hide-a-keys." Thieves know the best places to hide those.
- Garage door openers should be hidden or removed when possible.
- Park in busy, well-traveled areas and well-lighted areas. Large anonymous lots are hit by thieves much more often than parking immediately adjacent to residential housing or other occupied buildings. Auto-burglars prefer breaking into cars where they will not be observed or attract attention, and choose their targets accordingly.
- Don't trust your dark tinted windows to hide your valuables. Thieves will use flashlights to see through tint, and after-market tint is handy to keep all the broken glass in one "sheet" when they break out your window (and toss the broken window into your back seat or passenger seat to hide the evidence of the break-in from a passerby).
- Mark all your valuables to aid in recovery if stolen. Recording serial numbers is important so the stolen items can be entered into a Nationwide stolen property system. We also suggest inscribing or engraving a personal identifier on all valuables. Do not use your social security number! You can use your driver's license (DL) number, prefaced by your DL "state", such as "NJ-A1234 56789 10110". With that marking, any police officer can trace your valuable back to you, wherever it's recovered, and the chances of being reunited with your stolen valuables is dramatically increased.