

# Auto Theft Prevention

Car theft is a major problem, with more than 1.5 million autos stolen annually. In addition, there are close to 2 million thefts of contents every year and even more thefts of auto accessories.

Stealing cars is a large, profitable interstate (even international) business. Car theft rings can pay thieves upwards of \$1000 for a few hours of “work.”

Movies show that it is difficult to stop a motivated professional car thief if they really want a car. The trick is to cause them a few problems, slow them down and get them to look for a car that’s easier to steal.

There ARE some actions you can take and devices available that can make your car safer.

This information is brought to you by the Racine County Triad program. Triad is a co-op of law enforcement, organizations and older adults working together to improve the lives of seniors in our community. For more information on Triad, please call 262.886.9612

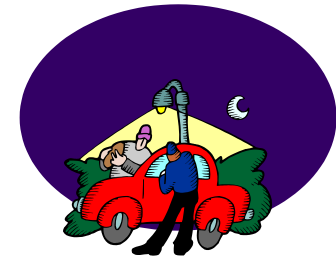


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Racine County Triad

# AUTO THEFT PREVENTION

*Older Adults, Law Enforcement  
and Agencies Working Together*



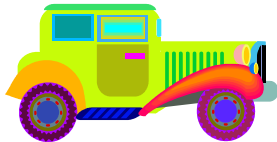
The tips and device suggestions enclosed in this brochure can make your vehicle less of a target

[www.RacineTriad.org](http://www.RacineTriad.org)

262.886.9612  
800.201.9490

## *Theft Prevention Checklist*

- I do NOT leave my motor running or the keys in the car while it is unattended, even if it is only for a short time, the doors are locked, and it is in my own driveway.
- I lock my car doors at all times, even for quick stops.
- I keep my car locked and the windows up while driving whenever possible.
- I park my car in well-lit, heavily traveled areas, such as under a light in a parking lot or on a busy street or in a lighted garage.
- I park in a driveway or garage whenever possible.
- I do NOT leave personal documents such as ID's, registration, credit cards (or their billing statements), insurance cards, etc. in the car.
- If I have a car alarm, I make sure it is armed each time I leave the car unattended.



- I carry a copy of the vehicle's license number, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), and the make, model, and year information with me. The police would need that information if my car were to be stolen.
- I mount accessories in inconspicuous places. Items such as CD players, GPS units, phones, speakers, radars and such can make my car a target, so I keep them out of plain sight. When possible I remove them from the vehicle altogether when it is unattended.
- When I have valuables or packages in the car I keep them under cover or in the trunk.
- When driving I also keep these packages and personal property, like a purse, on the floor of the vehicle covered up so as not to attract a passersby at stops or people driving next to me.
- I keep adequate theft insurance on my vehicle and homeowners policies.

## *Other Great Ideas*

- Brake pedal, steering wheel and wheel locks are inexpensive visual mechanical deterrents that are a good cost value.



- GPS vehicle tracking systems are effective in many cases in locating both a stolen car and the thief. However they may be cost prohibitive to install and maintain by some.
- When you plan to purchase a new car, check with your insurance agent or local police as to which cars are the biggest "targets" from thieves in your area and avoid these models.
- When purchasing a vehicle, look for one with "Passive Immobilizer Keys" as standard equipment.

**Check out our other safety brochures for information about Home Safety and Security, Fire Safety, Food Preparation and Safety, and Preventing Injuries in the Home available through Triad. Call us for your free copies.**