

# CARJACKING

This is a violent, random form of auto theft, usually involving women. But the driver of any vehicle can be a target of someone with a weapon. It can happen anywhere, day or night. In most cases the suspect wants only the car. Here are some precautions to use when traveling:

- Keep your doors locked.
- Park in well-lit, busy areas.
- Be alert of your surroundings, of people approaching your vehicle.
- Stick with the traffic, avoid lightly traveled streets, especially after dark.
- Keep car and house keys on separate key chains.
- Keep your vehicle registration in your purse.
- Keep the garage door opener in your purse or briefcase.
- When stopped in traffic, always leave enough room to make an emergency getaway.
- If someone is trying to enter your vehicle while in traffic, **BLOW THE HORN AND FLASH THE LIGHTS.**
- If someone is threatening you with a weapon, **give up the vehicle — it's not worth your life.**
- **DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY AND REMAIN ON THE LINE WITH THE DISPATCHER.**

# VIN Etching

VIN (vehicle identification number) is a unique number assigned to vehicles that identify the registered vehicle owner

VIN etching involves the use of a stencil and glass etching paste to etch your car's vehicle identification number onto its windshield and windows. This makes your car less attractive to thieves. Why? Because it means that thieves will have to replace the glass (at considerable cost) before they can sell the stolen vehicle.

Contact your local police department for additional information about VIN etching.

*Information Compliments of*

Macungie Police Department

21 Locust Street

Macungie, Pennsylvania 18062

(610) 966-2222 Police Administration

(610) 965-4878 Fax

**EMERGENCIES**

**DIAL 911**

# Securing Your Vehicle



## **YOU CAN PREVENT CAR THEFT!**

Most cars are taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily. Protect your investment against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions:

# Lock up

An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief.

## **Lock up when you leave your car, and take the keys with you.**

- Lock the trunk or tailgate.
- Close all windows — professional thieves have tools that unlock cars through the smallest openings.
- Be sure vent, wing windows and sunroofs are shut tight and locked.
- When you park the car, remove cellular phones, stereo face-plates, satellite radio receivers and other valuable possessions.
- Do not leave giftwrapped packages or cameras lying on the seat.
- Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.
- Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini-mall.
- Don't leave piles of loose change in view.
- Set the alarm if your car is equipped with one.

## **Park carefully**

Don't leave a vehicle in unattended public parking lots for an extended period.

If possible, park your car in a lot where you don't have to leave your keys.

Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your car and your home.

If you have to leave your keys with a parking attendant, leave only the ignition key.

At night, park in well-lit areas with lots of people around.

Turn wheels sharply toward the curb when parking, this makes it extra difficult for thieves to tow your car.

If your car is going to be parked for an extended period of time, contact the local police department and let them know where the car is, make, model, color and registration number. A contact number should be provided.

If parking on private property, obtain permission from the property owner. Property owners have the right to tow vehicles they don't want on their property.

# ANTI THEFT TACTICS

## **Use anti-theft devices**

When buying a car, check the manufacturer's list of anti-theft options, such as interior hood and trunk releases, locking steering columns and others.

- Consider the purchase and installation of security devices, such as:
  - Locking gas cap.
  - Locking devices for batteries, wheels, etc.
  - Alarm device to activate a siren, horn or lights – or all three – to frighten the thief away.
  - Device that attaches to the steering wheel or brake pedal.

**It is suggested that you carry your vehicle registration in your wallet or purse. If your vehicle is stolen the thief will not know who the car is registered to. The police almost always ask for a registration card. If none is produced AND the driver does not know who the car belongs to some additional investigation may be warranted.**