



LOCK IT

OR LOSE IT

A professional can steal your vehicle in just 30 seconds – without the key. The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) are encouraging citizens to "Lock It or Lose It." The goal of the proactive crime prevention program is to encourage drivers to take a few simple precautions that will protect their vehicles from theft.

An unlocked door or an open window is an invitation to thieves. The goal of the "Lock It or Lose It" program vehicle security audit reminds drivers to always:

- Roll up their vehicles' windows;
- Keep valuables out of sight;
- Lock their doors; and
- Pocket their keys.

In partnership with IBC, vehicles parked in a variety of locations are checked to confirm that they are locked and that no valuables have been left in plain view. A small notice is placed on every vehicle checked indicating what safety precautions were neglected and offering some simple prevention tips for drivers to protect their vehicles against theft. The notice also congratulates drivers who have ensured that their vehicle is secure, with valuables out of plain sight.

Auto theft costs Canadians more than \$1 billion every year. About half of all stolen vehicles are used to commit another crime or are driven – often recklessly – for simple purposes of transportation (this is called 'destination theft'). In these cases, the thieves are usually amateurs who take advantage of owner negligence by grabbing the first vehicle they can find that's been left unsecured. In the other half of cases, vehicles are stolen by professional thieves involved in organized crime rings.

The key to protecting your vehicle is in your hands. Keep yourself from becoming an easy target by properly securing your vehicle. Remember: Lock It or Lose It!

More details about crime-proofing may be found on-line at:

www.ibc.ca/en/Insurance_Crime/Auto_Theft/

