



LARCENY FROM AUTO

Chesterfield County Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit (804) 318 - 8699

Did you know that larceny from automobiles is a crime of opportunity that requires little to no skill on an offender's part? Unfortunately, people often leave their vehicles unlocked and keep valuable items in plain view for the world to see. It only takes a little effort to defend against these types of larcenies. By being proactive and adjusting your behaviors a little, you can save yourself a lot of trouble and expense.

- NEVER leave your car unattended – especially if unlocked – with the engine running.
- While out and about, try to park in well lit, high visibility locations.
- Keep your vehicle locked at ALL times. This applies whether your car is in a parking lot or in your driveway.
- Keep windows and sunroofs closed completely.
- NEVER leave valuables, such as purses, laptop computers, portable music players, GPS units, cameras, CDs, weapons, tools, cell phones or cash, in your vehicle. If you must keep purchases in the vehicle while out shopping, for example, keep them in the trunk or completely out of view.
- Do not leave book bags, gym bags or luggage in view as an offender assumes they contain valuables.
- Do not leave your car title, registration or insurance information in your vehicle. Always keep it in your purse or wallet.
- Invest in an auto alarm system. Place alarm decals on the windows to help deter offenders.
- Cut the back of inspection stickers to prevent removal from the windshield.
- Do not hide spare keys in or under your vehicle – offenders know where to find them!
- Do not hesitate to report suspicious persons in or around vehicles.

