



# Haverford Township Police Department

1010 Darby Road  
Havertown, Pennsylvania 19083  
Phone: 610-853-1298 Fax: 610-853-1706

John F. Viola  
Chief of Police

## Community Alert.

During the period between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and April 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 the Haverford Township Police Department has responded to 70 reports of thefts from vehicles. Almost all of the thefts occurred from vehicles which had been left unlocked. Please remember to lock your car doors at **all times** and do not leave valuables or loose change visible. **If you see anything that you feel is suspicious call 911 immediately.**

Most thefts from vehicle crimes are opportunistic and therefore preventable. By following some straightforward advice, and working together, we can ensure that this type of crime is reduced in our community. Some of the advice may sound obvious and rather simple but it could make all the difference if you follow it consistently. The cost and the time you must spend on repairs, replacement of stolen items can be easily prevented by following some simple tips.

### **Lock your doors**

While this piece of advice should be obvious, up to a quarter of vehicle thefts are from unlocked cars, according to most law enforcement agencies. Even if you're running into the store for a Coke, that's too long to leave your vehicle's contents open for the taking. Simply locking the doors will deter those who might just be waiting around for an easy target.

### **Keep it tidy**

Almost any worthless personal item that's visible from the outside -- even an empty shopping bag -- could be seen as a valuable or a carrier of valuables. If you have a wagon or SUV that leaves your cargo area on display, consider getting a cover. Most of these vehicles can be fitted with inexpensive retractable covers to help keep shopping bags or other belongings out of sight.

### **Conceal all the evidence**

Don't leave any bait out for thieves; stow your electronics and accessories well out of sight-or better yet, bring it with you. The evidence alone might be enough to pique the interest of thieves, so hide that too, including power plugs, telltale iPod adapters, or nav-system windshield suction-cup mounts, and even put the cigarette lighter back in place.

### **Completely close windows and sunroofs**

No, 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.

### **Get an alarm**

If you don't have an alarm system, get one. The noise alone may be enough to scare away an inexperienced thief and prevent the break-in. Factory-option alarm systems are generally best, but a carefully installed, properly calibrated aftermarket system can provide just as much safety. Beware; many less-expensive new cars have remote entry but not a true alarm.

*Integrity • Service • Professionalism*