

Even if your vehicle is locked and alarmed, if you leave valuables (or the hint of valuables) in plain sight, a thief may target your car, even knowing it's locked and alarmed.



But, without a clear prize in sight, a locked/alarmed car will likely be bypassed for an easier “target of opportunity”.

**AT HOME**, if possible, put your vehicle in a garage and lock the door

If you're not able to park your vehicle in the garage at least park the vehicle in the driveway.

**Always park in a well-lit areas** and be familiar with your surroundings.

**Use auto theft deterrents** such as car alarms, kill switches, steering wheel locks and tracking devices.

**Emergency 9-1-1  
Police Non-Emergency  
713-884-3131**

**For General Information  
Contact Your  
Local Police Station  
or the  
Community Engagement Unit at  
713-308-3200**

**For more information, visit  
[www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org)**

**Burglary of a motor vehicle  
is a crime of opportunity. Don't  
become a victim, protect your  
car and personal property.**



# **BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE Crime Prevention Tips**



**The Houston Police Department wants you to be safe!**

**By practicing the suggested crime prevention tips you can help reduce the chances that you will become the victim of a burglary of a motor vehicle.**

**BE AWARE** of your surroundings at all times.

Criminals target people that might be distracted (walking while looking at their cell phone or talking on their cell phone, wearing earphones).

**PARK ONLY** in well-lit areas near other vehicles.



**PARK ONLY** in high traffic areas of a parking lot.

DO NOT jeopardize your safety or the safety of your family for convenience.

**Never leave valuables in your vehicle.** Criminals watch parking lots to see where you might be hiding valuables, for example your trunk. This is especially true if you are going to be away from your vehicle for a long period of time or overnight.

**Criminals targets of choice:** Guns, purses, laptops, tablets, hand tools, jewelry, coins or anything they might feel is valuable.



**Always LOCK all doors and ensure windows are rolled up!**

**Never leave a gun unsecured in your vehicle!** Car break-ins where guns were stolen increased from 646 between January - April 2019, to 754 in January - April 2020.

That means at least 108 more guns were stolen so far in 2020, and each break-in sometimes involves a theft of multiple guns. Thieves like to specifically target



shooting ranges and then follow you to your next location and break into your vehicle. If you notice anyone acting suspicious or hanging around the parking lot, return to the store or business and notify management or call police by dialing 9-1-1 if it's a crime in progress or 713-884-3131.

Don't think your dark-tinted windows will hide your valuables. Thieves often use flashlights to see through tint.