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CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT
TIP LINE: 530.896.8477

CAR THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

1. NEVER leave your keys in your car, even spare keys. Whether you are parking for the night or just running into the gas station for :30 seconds, most car thefts are crimes of opportunity. Keys in your car is a stolen car
2. NEVER leave your vehicle running unattended – if you are warming it up in the driveway stay with it. A running car is an easily stolen car
3. Purchase a lock or alarm. A lock like "the Club" which attaches to your steering wheel can be defeated, but is a visible reminder that you have taken steps to secure your vehicle. The blinking light of an alarm also shows that your vehicle should not be tampered with. Hopefully a potential car thief will move on to an easier target. This is especially important if your car is one of the "easy-to-steal" models (90's Honda, Acura, or Toyota)
4. **Account for all your keys. Don't use "Hide-a-keys" under your vehicle. Yes, car thieves look for them. Keep your spare keys hidden in your home. If your house is burglarized, don't let your spare keys be easily taken for future burglaries or thefts**
5. Always park as securely as you can. Park in well-lit areas where the vehicle can be seen by you and others
6. Security cameras are a good deterrent. Post signs letting criminals know you have security systems and are proactively watching your property
7. Don't leave the title (pink slip) in the car (you would be surprised how many people do). With the title, a thief can forge your signature and attempt to change ownership of the vehicle (or use it as a defense if caught)
8. Always keep the windows rolled up, and the vehicle locked (that includes keeping the convertible tops and sunroofs closed and locked also). Don't give a thief easy access to your vehicle
9. Keep valuables (even non-valuables) out of sight. Take them with you or lock them in your trunk. Remove the temptation for a thief to get into your vehicle in the first place
10. If you have a utility trailer, boat, camp trailer or other towable trailer, lock the tongue with a lock to keep it from getting stolen by being easily towed away
11. Take a minute to snap a couple of photographs of your vehicle, including any bumper stickers, accessories like roof racks or push bumpers you have added, distinctive damage such as dents or repairs, the license plate and VIN number. Our newly-updated mobile app has a property module designed just for storing photos of your property. If your vehicle is ever stolen, having that information available can assist in recovery
12. Always report a stolen vehicle to law enforcement as quickly as possible. If you DO find your own vehicle (it happens), do not recover it yourself. Keep eyes on it and call law enforcement to recover it. They can process it for evidence, and you don't want to be spotted driving a reported stolen vehicle

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530.896.TIPS (8477)

The Chico Police Department is committed to ensuring our community is a safe place to live, work, and recreate within!