



**Metropolitan
Police Department
City of Saint Louis**

Auto Theft Safety Tips

HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts)

Here are a few tips to help SLMPD protect YOUR property

- **NEVER** leave your vehicle running unattended with the key in the ignition.

During colder weather, people are tempted to “warm up” their vehicles by starting it and leaving it unattended. Thieves are aware of this and tend to target these vehicles to steal. Even if you are using a remote starter, an unattended vehicle that is running will still bring attention and make you susceptible to property damage and/or items stolen.

- **NEVER** leave your vehicle unlocked and close all windows.

Thieves are looking for an easy opportunity and will walk around checking door handles to see if vehicles are left unlocked.

- **NEVER** leave a spare key in your vehicle and keep all key fobs with YOU!!!

- **ALWAYS** park in well-lit areas and close to building’s entrances.

- **NEVER** leave valuables in plain sight.

*Thieves are tempted by items out in plain sight. Be mindful, that they are also watching for people who place valuables in the trunk of their vehicles, too. Any valuables that you must leave in the vehicle should be hidden and secured **PRIOR** to your arrival at your destination.*

- **NEVER** leave a firearm in your vehicle.

Thieves know common places that firearms are hidden. They also know places (sporting events etc.) that do not allow firearms inside and will target vehicles at this location. If you are not allowed to take your firearm inside with you, leave it at home.

- **USE** an Auto Theft Deterrent.

Another layer of protection is a visible or audible device which alerts thieves that your vehicle is protected. Those devices include audible alarms, steering wheel locks, steering column collars, brake locks, wheel locks, and theft deterrent decals. Steering wheel locks (The Club) can be purchased for \$15 at the following locations:

Five Star Senior Center- located at 2832 Arsenal

Missouri Department of Revenue- located inside City Hall

**DON'T HESITATE TO REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO
OUR NON- EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER (314)231-1212**

