



COMMUNITY ALERT



WEST LOS ANGELES AREA LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST LOS ANGELES AREA CRIME ANALYSIS DETAIL

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT & BURGLARY/THEFT FROM VEHICLES

DON'T BECOME THE NEXT VICTIM



It has become a common practice for individuals who reside in apartments or condominiums to leave their keys inside their vehicle in cases where tandem parking is necessary (parking directly behind another car when space is limited). Although it makes it more convenient when switching cars, it is a terrible habit and one that has recently contributed to an ongoing series of break-ins as well as vehicle thefts.

In recent cases, thieves have enjoyed great success in taking advantage of people leaving their keys inside their vehicles or on their tires. Consequently, thieves have repeatedly returned to the property to commit more thefts. Regardless of the year, make or model, every vehicle is a potential target for vehicle theft and/or burglary. There are many layers of protection aside from always locking your car and never leaving the keys inside.

Popular layers of protection include:

- Steering wheel locks, brake pedal locks, hood locks
- Alarm systems
- License plate locks, tire and wheel locks
- Theft deterrent decals
- Identification markers in or on vehicle
- Window etching with Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- Starter, ignition and fuel kill switches
- Smart keys
- Wireless ignition authentication
- Fuse cut-offs
- Immobilizers and Pass keys

If you, your family, or neighbors engage in this type of practice, please consider the message that it sends to the criminals— It tells them that your building is an easy target and one where they can continuously steal without difficulty. Please help by hardening the target.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WEST LOS ANGELES AUTO CRIME
DETECTIVES AT (310) 444-1512.**