

# Layer 4

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## Tracking Systems

There are also tracking systems that emit a signal to the police or a monitoring service when the vehicle is reported stolen. If your vehicle has a tracking system and is stolen, it can often be recovered faster and with less damage.

## Carjacking

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Help protect yourself and your car by taking some simple precautions:

- ▶ Do not approach your vehicle if someone is loitering near it. Always pay attention to your surroundings and nearby activity.
- ▶ Always check the back seat before opening the door.
- ▶ Once in your vehicle, keep your doors locked and windows closed.
- ▶ Be wary of people who approach your vehicle for any reason.
- ▶ When stopped in traffic, leave enough distance from the car in front of you to pull away quickly if necessary.
- ▶ Stop only at ATMs that are well lit and visible from the street. Always check your surroundings before opening your window.
- ▶ If an armed carjacker confronts you, don't resist - get out of the car quickly. Better to lose your car than your life.

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# Don't be a victim

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# Of



# Vehicle Theft

## Tips for vehicle crime prevention

From the Louisiana Automobile Theft &  
Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority  
**Louisiana Department of Insurance**  
*Jim Donelon, Commissioner*

**Vehicle theft** is no longer just a crime committed by teenagers. It has become big business, run by organized crime rings out to make huge profits.

Car theft rings are often on the lookout for vehicles they can quickly ship out for sale in other countries or take apart at local “chop shops” and sell for parts. And don’t assume your older model car is safe. Older cars are often stripped for parts that are sold for two to three times the value of the vehicle.

Stolen cars are also in great demand for use in residential and commercial robberies, check and credit card fraud schemes, identity theft activities, illegal drug trafficking and even drive-by shootings.

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**The high incidents of auto theft claims in Louisiana ultimately lead to higher costs for auto insurance.**

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***Make your vehicle a tough target with the “Layered Approach” to theft prevention.***

## ***Layer 1***

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### **Use common sense**

- ▶ Lock your doors.
- ▶ Remove your keys from the ignition, and never leave your car’s engine running, not even in your driveway.
- ▶ Close your windows completely.
- ▶ Never hide a second set of keys anywhere on your car.
- ▶ Never leave packages or personal items in plain view.
- ▶ Park with the wheels turned toward the curb - even when parking in driveways and parking lots. This makes your vehicle difficult to tow.
- ▶ Always use your emergency brake when parking.
- ▶ Park only in attended or well lit lots.
- ▶ If your vehicle has rear wheel drive, back into your driveway. Front wheel drive vehicles should be parked front end first.
- ▶ Keep your registration card in your purse or wallet, not in your glove compartment.
- ▶ Park your vehicle in a garage if possible, and always lock both your car and the garage.

## ***Layer 2***

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### **Use visible & audible deterrents**

- ▶ Audible alarm system
- ▶ Steering wheel locks
- ▶ Steering column collars
- ▶ Theft deterrent decals
- ▶ Tire locks
- ▶ Window etching with vehicle identification numbers (VIN etching)

## ***Layer 3***

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### **Vehicle Immobilizers**

Stop thieves from bypassing your ignition or “hot wiring” your vehicle by installing a vehicle immobilizer system, such as:

- ▶ “Smart Keys” with computer chips that must be present to start the vehicle.
- ▶ Fuse cut-offs.
- ▶ Kill switches.
- ▶ Starter, ignition and fuel disablers.
- ▶ Disable your vehicle by removing the ignition fuse, coil wire or distributor rotor if it is going to be unattended for a long period of time.