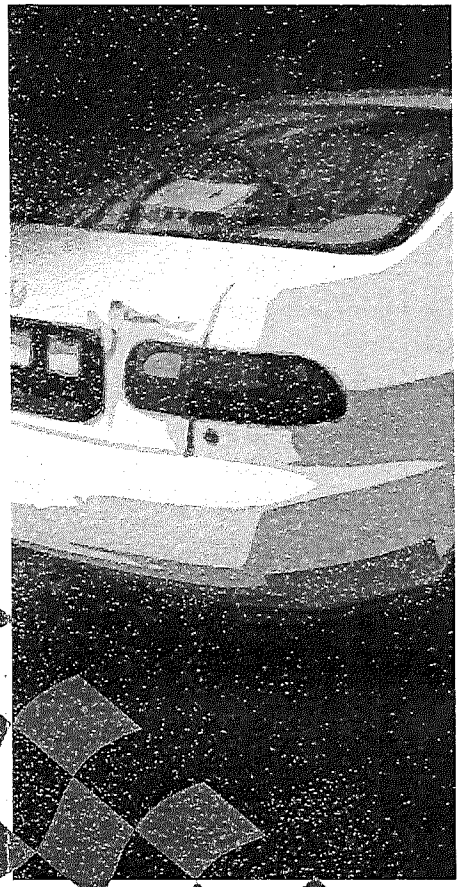

Auto Theft Prevention

A few simple steps,
could save your car!

Car thieves recognize that the longer they remain near a vehicle while trying to break into it, the higher the risk of being observed and caught... Here are some steps to help you secure your vehicle.

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Crime prevention tips from YOUR Kent Police.

For more tips call **(253) 856-5851** or visit our website
www.ci.kent.wa.us/crimeprevention

Your car is parked. Have you made it secure?

When you leave a car unlocked or valuable property in plain sight, you attract car prowlers. If you leave your car running unattended (either to warm it up or to grab a "quick" cup of coffee from a convenience store), you attract opportunistic car thieves.

Once a car has been stolen, it can be used to commit other crimes (such as mail theft, burglary, robbery, etc.) and could even possibly be used to flee from the police. By protecting your vehicle, you are helping prevent many other crimes from occurring. There are several simple, inexpensive ways to safeguard your vehicle from auto theft and from being targeted for a vehicle prowl.

Keep all car doors locked at all times.

Lock the ignition and the doors. Remember that a lock is only effective if you choose to use it. At attended parking lots, leave only the ignition key (or valet key) with the car. Take the rest of your keys with you. Radios, cd players, briefcases, lap tops, shopping bags...These items are valuable and popular, and frequently stolen from cars. That's another reason to lock all your doors as a matter of habit. If you have a pull-out stereo, remember to remove it when you're away from your vehicle.

Keep personal and valuable belongings out of sight.

Do not invite a break-in by leaving valuables such as cameras, CDs, money, computers, or packages in plain sight; either take them with you or discreetly lock them in the trunk. If you do not have a trunk, place them in an out-of-sight location such as under a seat (it's best to do this before you get to your parking spot).

Park in a well-lit and highly visible area

On the Street: Find a well-lit area with lots of pedestrian foot traffic. Thieves look for isolated, dark areas to break into cars.

Use your anti-theft device at all times.

You can increase the security of your vehicle by adding an anti-theft device, many of which are available at most retail stores or auto dealerships. Think of protecting your vehicle like the layering of an onion: each layer of protection you add reduces the likelihood of your vehicle being stolen or broken into.

Here are some examples:

Car Alarm: Find one that disables the vehicle's starter when activated. Do not rely solely on those that simply broadcast a loud alarm.

Switches: These can be used to interrupt the fuel or electronic systems.

LOJACK: This GPS unit will notify police when your car has been reported stolen and will lead officers to your vehicle.

Steering Wheel Locking Device (Club): These are probably the easiest and most affordable way to help protect your car. This device is both difficult to remove and easy to see. The visual aspect of the device makes it obvious to a would-be thief that your vehicle's steering wheel is locked.

The Kent Police Employees Benevolent Association sells the Club at a discounted rate of $15.00 or you can purchase the Club for an SUV or Truck for $20.00. All proceeds benefit youth in the Kent community. To purchase a Club and keep your car safe, call (253) 856-5851.

You can prevent criminals from prowling your vehicle with these simple steps. Secure your car every time you park it.

*If you see suspicious activity in the parking lot, call **9-1-1** immediately.*