

Preventing Thefts from your Vehicle

- *Do not keep valuables such as GPS units, cash, credit cards, or cell phones in the car. If you must keep these items in the vehicle, conceal them or lock them in your trunk.*
- *When driving, place valuables on floor NOT on seat next to you.*
- *Make sure that your vehicle is locked even if you are only leaving it for a minute.*
- *If leaving your vehicle with a parking attendant, make sure that you leave only a key that will work in the ignition; if your key also opens your trunk and glove box, think about having them re-keyed.*

If any crime occurs involving your vehicle, call the police immediately.



Community Policing Unit

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Phone: (973) 992-3000 ext. 3600

Livingston Police
Department

**Vehicle
Safety:
protecting
yourself
while driving
and parking**



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Tips to protect you while driving and parking your vehicle

Safety While Driving

- Keep your vehicle in gear while at a traffic signal.
- Always keep your doors locked and your windows up.
- When stopped in traffic, make sure you leave enough room between you and the vehicle in front of you to maneuver away if you sense danger.
- If you are confronted by someone with a weapon who wants your vehicle, give it to them - your car is not worth risking your life over. Try to remember as much as you can about the perpetrator's appearance, i.e. sex, age, race, hair color, height and weight, and clothing.
- If you see someone experiencing car trouble, do not stop. Note their location and vehicle type and call police to provide assistance.
- Be alert to your surroundings and if you believe you are being followed, call 9-1-1—never go to your home.

- If you are “bumped” from behind in a minor accident, it may be someone who will try to take your car when you get out to assess the damage. Before exiting your vehicle, look in your mirror to see who is in the other vehicle. If you do not feel safe, try to read their license plate number and then motion to the other driver to follow you. Go to a well-lit, public area to stop and then call 9-1-1.

Preventing Vehicle Theft

- When you park your vehicle at your home, make sure that you lock it, remove the keys, and close all the windows. If you have a garage, use it and make sure your car is locked even when inside.
- To make a vehicle difficult to tow away, park with the wheels turned sharply to the left or right, make sure the car is in park (or in gear for a manual transmission) and set the parking brake
- You should make sure that you do not leave valet keys in the vehicle - a valet key is normally placed by the manufacturer in the owner's manual in the glove compartment.
- If you are going to be away for an extended period of time, think about disabling your vehicle by removing the coil wire, rotor distributor, or other easily removed part.

- Other deterrents can be used which include alarm systems, window etchings, ignition kill systems or steering lock systems.

Parking Lot Safety

- Note where you parked your car. Walking around trying to find your car makes you look like a victim.
- Try to park in a well-lit area that is occupied by other vehicles .
- Have your keys in your hand.
- Glance under your car as you approach.
- Look in the back seat before getting into your car.
- As soon as you get into your car, drive away.
- Never leave valuables in plain view.
- Observe what is around you.
- If you are approached while in your car, honk the horn.
- If you are approached while walking, run in the opposite direction.

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