



TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

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Police Share Crime-Stopping Tips to Prevent Car Break-Ins

July 29, 2014 – West Orange, NJ – The West Orange Police Department has released a list of tips to prevent auto break-ins. Practicing these tips no matter where you park is critical, whether in West Orange or beyond. This type of theft is usually a crime of opportunity, where a thief is looking for the easiest target.

1. Lock your doors and close your windows.

Always lock your car doors no matter where you park and make sure your windows are up. Thieves look for easy targets like unlocked doors. A majority of car break-in cases that West Orange police handle involves parked cars that were left unlocked. Even if you are leaving the car for "only a second" lock all your doors.

2. Park in well-lit areas.

Parking in a well-lit area where your vehicle is highly visible will also deter thieves, especially if there is constant traffic and other people walking by. Parking your vehicle in a dimly lit, remote area of a parking lot or garage makes your vehicle an easy target. Set your alarm.

3. Remove valuables from sight.

Leaving an expensive GPS unit on the dashboard or a laptop computer on the back seat invites a vehicle to be broken into. Cell phones, cash and electronic devices left on the front seat are other easy targets because these items are small and can be easily grabbed by thieves. Power cables and chargers are a sign that expensive electronics items are in the car. Secure your valuables in the trunk, or cover them up and keep them out of view. Doing so before you reach your destination is also a good idea, in the event that a thief is watching the parking lot.

4. Notify each other of criminal and suspicious activity.

Talking to neighbors and setting up a plan could be a valuable way to stay informed as to suspicious activity in the area. If a car alarm is heard, it's recommended to always check it out.



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If your car is broken into, immediately report the incident to the police, even if you decide not to report it to your insurance company. We need your assistance in determining what areas may be experiencing car break-in activity. Reporting non-emergencies call 973-325-4000. For emergencies or crimes in progress, call 9-1-1.

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