



Vehicle Hijacking Prevention Tips

- Stay alert – this type of crime can occur any time of day or night.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- When parking in garage – back in, stay in the locked, running vehicle until the overhead door has completely closed, and stay off phone until safely inside your residence.
- Trust your instincts. If a stranger or strange vehicle is in your alley, go around the block and call Police from your cell phone. Call 911 and immediately say *Oak Park* in case your phone pings a cell antennae in a neighboring community.
- Make sure your garage and backyard are well lighted. Consider installing lights with features such as dusk-to-dawn illumination or motion sensors.
- Always drive with car doors locked and windows rolled up.
- Keep valuables out of view.
- Never leave an unattended vehicle running.
- Be aware that thieves sometimes bump a vehicle from behind and then steal the victim's vehicle when they stop to exchange information. Wave for the driver to follow you to a heavily populated area or the Police Station.
- If you become the victim of a vehicle hijacking, don't resist. Material items can be replaced, but you can't.
- Call the Police as soon as possible and try to have a good description.
- Record your vehicle identification number (VIN) and license plate number and keep the information at home in a place that is easy to remember. The quicker you can provide this information to the Police, the quicker the offenders who stole your car can be apprehended.
- Attend your neighborhood/resident beat officer's monthly meeting to learn more about crime and prevention information. Visit www.oak-park.us/rbo for more details.