



# Preventing Auto Theft



## BEWARE OF THE “BUMP-AND-ROB”

- It works like this. A car, usually with a driver and at least one passenger rear-ends or “bumps” you in traffic. You get out to check the damage. The driver or passenger of the other car jumps in your car and drives off and/ or robs you.
- If you’re bumped by another car, look around before you get out. Make sure there are other cars around, and then check out the car that rear-ended you and who’s in it. If the situation makes you uneasy, stay in the car and insist on moving to a police station or busy, well-lit area to exchange information.



## Quick Tips

- If your car’s stolen, report it to the police immediately.
- When buying a used car from an individual or a dealer, make sure you have the proper titles, that the VIN number is intact, and that the “federal sticker” is on the inside of the driver’s door. The sticker should match the VIN.
- Never hide a back-up set of keys in your car. Thieves are aware of all the common hiding places.

## Did You Know

In the United States, a vehicle is stolen every 26 seconds.

Stolen cars, vans, trucks, and motorcycles cost victims time and money and increase everyone’s insurance premiums. They’re also often used to commit other crimes.



## The Basic Prevention Policy

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you’re away from it, even for “just a minute.”
- Always roll up the windows and lock the car, even if it’s parked in front of your home.
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk or at least out of sight. Buy radios, CD players and mp3 players that can be removed and locked in the trunk.
- Carry the registration and insurance card with you. Don’t leave personal identification documents in your vehicle.
- When you pay to park in a lot or garage, leave just the ignition key with the attendant. Make sure no personal information is attached. Do the same when you take your car for repairs.

- Park in busy, well-lit areas. Don't always take the first spot you see in a parking lot. Try to get as close as possible to the main entrance of your destination.



### **Add Extra Protection**

- Install a mechanical locking device – commonly called clubs, collars, or j-bars – that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake.
- Invest in a security system if you live in a high-theft area or drive an automobile that's an attractive target for thieves. You may get a discount on your auto insurance.
- Consider purchasing and installing a reputable vehicle immobilizer or real-time tracking device such as “LoJack.”
- Look into CAT (Combo Auto Theft) and HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) partnership programs where individuals voluntarily register their cars with the police and allow the police to stop the car during certain hours when they normally would not be driving (such as midnight to 5 am). All participants display decals in a designated area of their vehicles.



### **WHAT ABOUT CARJACKING?**

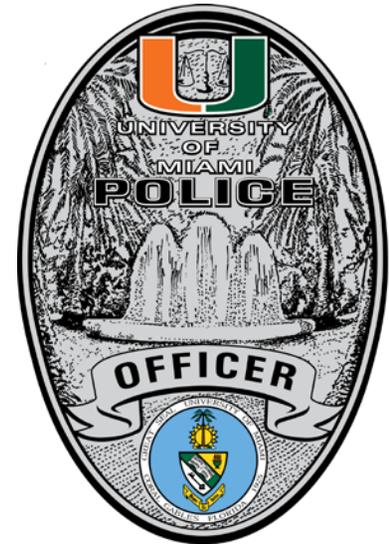


- Carjacking, stealing a car by force, often captures media headlines. Following simple common sense safety ideas can greatly reduce your risk of victimization.
- Etch the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the windows, doors, fenders and trunk lid. This helps discourage professional thieves who have to either remove or replace etched parts before selling the car.
- Approach your car with the key in hand. Look around and inside before getting in.
- When driving, keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up at all times.
- Be especially alert at intersections, gas stations, ATMs, shopping malls, convenience and grocery stores – all are windows of opportunity for carjackers.
- Park in well-lighted areas with good visibility, close to walkways, stores and people.
- If the carjacker has a weapon, give up the car with no questions asked. Your life is worth more than a car.

## **NEVER HESITATE TO CONTACT UM POLICE**

<b>UM Police Dispatch</b>	<b>(305) 284-6666</b>
UM Police Fax	(305) 284-1541
UM Crime Prevention	(305) 284-1105
SART Hotline	(305) 798-6666

[www.miami.edu/police](http://www.miami.edu/police)



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