



Condominium Association – www.cantamar-va.org

Car Security / Safety Tip

Stop car break-ins before they happen

Some Helpful tips for you due to several Car Break ins in our community.



Keeping your car secure can give you peace of mind. Here's how to keep it safe.

Nothing ruins a night out like coming back to your car to find its doors open and contents strewn across the seats and sidewalk/driveway -- other than returning to find your car missing entirely. It happens more than you think. More than 700,000 motor vehicles were reported stolen in the US in 2019, according to the FBI. The number of people who were victims of the theft of valuables inside their cars is harder to measure since it's often underreported -- but it's likely far more common than car theft.

By taking a few simple steps, though, you can protect your car and the belongings inside it from theft. Here's how.

Keep your car doors locked and windows closed !

One of the simplest ways to protect your car is to lock the doors and close the windows anytime you aren't in the vehicle.

Property crimes are often crimes of opportunity: Open windows and unlocked doors can easily attract thieves, or give them opportunities to strike quickly and maintain a low profile. *If would-be thieves can't quickly gain entry to your car, they'll often simply keep moving.*

Secure your Car Keys

First, **never leave your keys in your vehicle**, even if you're just running into a convenience store or another location for a minute or two. Second, be careful of where you keep your spare key. Storing your spare key on the outside or inside of your car can make it easy for thieves to steal your car.

Thanks to the push-start features that are in new vehicles, a thief wouldn't even have to find the key in the vehicle to drive away with it -- it would be enough that the key was there.

Remove valuables from the car

Valuables that are visible within a vehicle can be attractive to would-be burglars. Avoid leaving your purse, phone or any other expensive items in your vehicle. Also avoid leaving shopping bags or other luggage in your car, as they signal the presence of something new or valuable, even if they're empty or just hold some groceries.

As an alternative, try leaving your belongings in the trunk of the car. If you have a cargo area in your truck or SUV, consider using a cargo cover, too.

Activate your car alarm

Most cars today come with a built-in alarm system. When your alarm is triggered, often by someone opening the car door or attempting to turn the car on while the alarm is activated, the car makes a loud noise. This noise can often be enough to deter a thief, since they won't want the attention the alarm brings.

If your car doesn't have a built-in alarm or you don't feel that it's sufficient, you can also purchase an aftermarket alarm to keep your vehicle safe.

Hundreds of thousands of people are victims of vehicle theft each year, and even more have their vehicles damaged or items stolen from their vehicles. Just a few simple precautionary measures can help deter thieves and protect your vehicle

Don't let this happen to you!