

ARE!



We're on your side.

The Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) was created in 1991 by the Texas Legislature to work with law enforcement officers, Mexican officials, state prosecutors, the insurance industry, and citizens across the state to combat automobile theft.

In 2007, the Texas Legislature expanded ATPA's mission to include emphasis on vehicle burglary in addition to theft. The resulting agency, known as the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), is charged with assessing the automobile burglary, automobile theft, and economic automobile theft problems in Texas and analyzing methods and providing financial support to combat those problems.

ABTPA moved from the Texas Department of Transportation to the newly established state agency, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles in 2009.

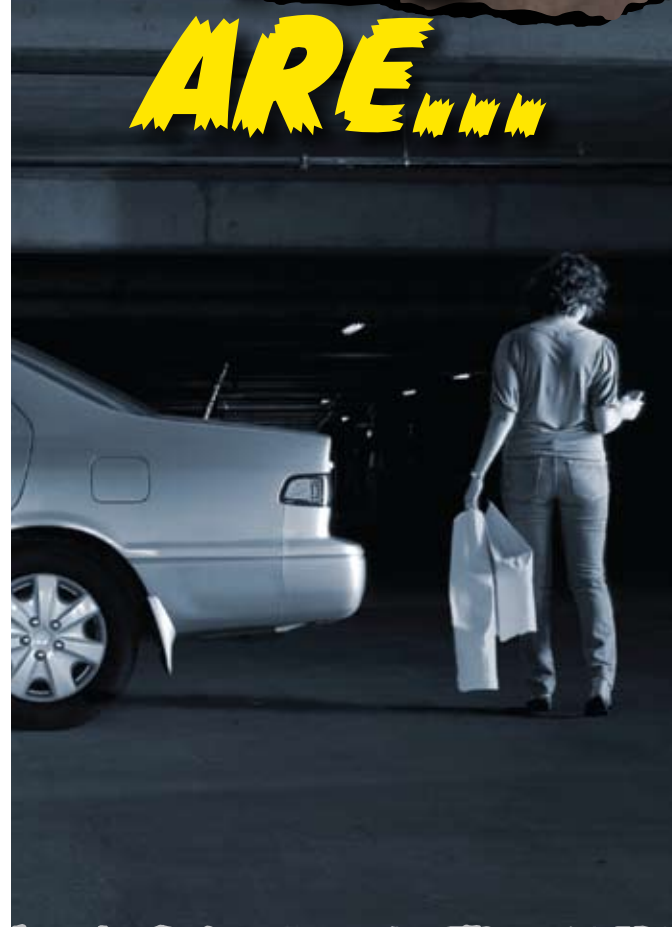
We're funded by a \$1 annual assessment per insured vehicle per year. The fee is assessed by all agencies that insure vehicles in Texas and is collected by the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

If you would like to learn more, call 1-800-CAR-WATCH, or visit www.txwatchyourcar.com

For details on registering in the Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T) vehicle registration program, please call 1-888-447-5933.



WHERE YOU ARE...



THEY



Car thieves in Texas steal almost 100,000 more. Want to hold on to what's yours?

vehicles annually and burglarize thousands. Then hold on to and follow this simple guide.

Will today be the day your car is broken into, your personal papers stolen, and your credit suddenly ruined? Will a thief steal your truck in broad daylight and use it to transport drugs and arms into Mexico? Will the simple misstep of leaving your engine running as you run a quick errand enable someone to make off with your laptop or your entire car?

Every day hundreds of Texans suffer the shock, anger, and frustration that characterize vehicle-related crimes. Most of the time, these crimes can be prevented. By following a few simple tips, you'll go a long way to protecting your friends, your loved ones, your property, and yourself.

You're being shadowed! In Texas, a vehicle is burglarized every 2 1/2 minutes.

The best way to keep thieves from stealing items from your car is to leave it looking as if it just rolled off the factory floor — nothing inside except the parts that comprise it. In other words, take or hide anything of value: Your laptop, GPS system, satellite radio, gym bag, address book, and/or purse or wallet with your money, checkbook, and credit cards. Remember, the best way to avoid having your car or truck burglarized is to be proactive.

In Texas, a vehicle is stolen every 5 minutes.

New model, older model, it doesn't matter: thieves look for cars and trucks that can be resold quickly or stripped for parts — parts that often yield two and even three times the value of the vehicle. By following these simple tips, however, you can make it tough on thieves and much more likely they'll be caught and prosecuted.



VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

- Take your keys. Half of all vehicles stolen in Texas (roughly 50,000 annually) are the result of drivers leaving their keys in the ignition.
- Lock your car. Approximately half of all stolen vehicles are left unlocked.
- Keep a second set of keys at your home or office; not in your car. An experienced thief knows where people hide keys in their vehicles.
- Park in well-lit areas. Thieves prefer unattended parking lots and dark areas.
- If you park in an attended lot, only leave your ignition key. Make sure your glove box or trunk is hard for the attendant to access. Upon returning to your vehicle, check to make sure your tires, spare, and battery are the same as when you parked.
- Turn off your car and lock the doors, even if you'll only be gone a minute. In Texas, it's illegal to leave your car running with no one inside.
- Close your car windows completely when parking.
- Hide or secure valuables from sight to avoid tempting thieves.
- Park with your wheels turned towards the curb. Doing so makes it tough for someone to tow your car away.

And if your vehicle is stolen? Report it to the police immediately and be ready to provide them with the vehicle year, make, model, color, vehicle identification number (VIN), and your license plate number to increase your chances for recovery.

VEHICLE BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

- If you must leave things inside your car, hide them from sight. If your vehicle has a trunk, use it. Otherwise, hide your belongings, close your windows, lock the doors, and take the keys. When you return, note any changes in your vehicle's appearance that might signal it's been broken into (broken side or vent windows or unlocked doors).
- Park in attended or brightly lit parking lots. Keep in mind that thieves are attracted to high traffic locales such as shopping center and office parking lots, apartment complexes, and areas by clubs, restaurants and parks where the pickings are easy.
- Leave your vehicle registration at home. In Texas, you will not be asked to produce this information by law enforcement officials.
- Don't leave vehicle insurance documents and personal papers in your glove box. Many of these documents contain personal information—a social security number, driver license, credit card number — that thieves can use to steal your identity or burglarize your home.
- Secure incoming or outgoing mail. Mail has your name and address on it and can provide additional personal information a thief can use to access your accounts.
- Bring your garage door opener with you instead of leaving it in your car. A thief can use it to gain entry into your home.
- Carry your house and car keys.
- Be aware of suspicious persons. If you see someone, who appears nervous, is pulling vehicle door handles, looking in windows, or bumping into vehicles (checking for alarms), notify someone immediately who can investigate further.