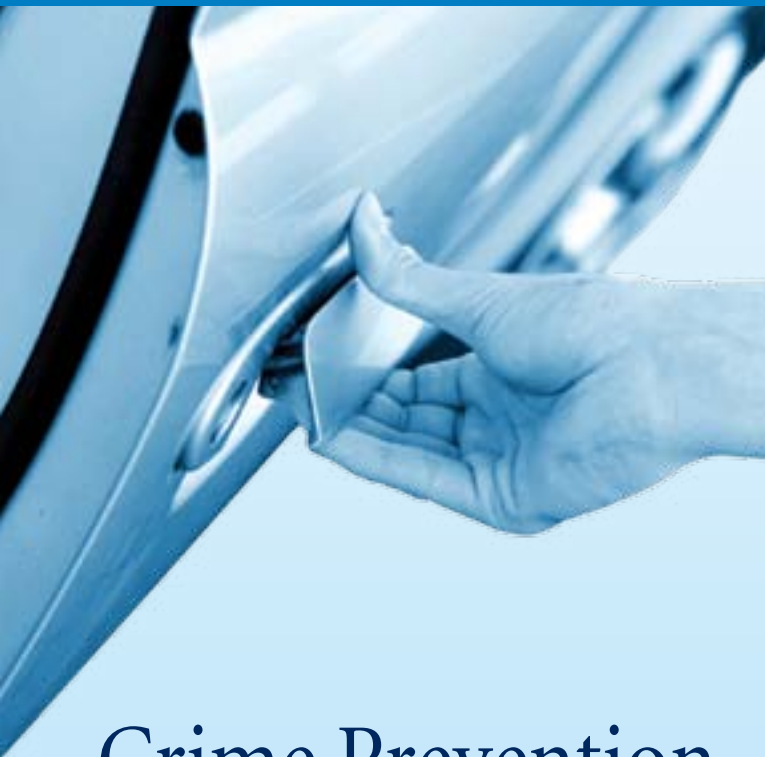




**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE  
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA**

*Working together for a safer community  
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe*



# Crime Prevention for Vehicle Owners

## Safety in our city

Ottawa is regarded by many as one of the safest cities in the world, but that's no reason for vehicle owners to let their guard down. While the Ottawa Police Service will always be available to respond to crime, we need your active participation to help prevent crime.

Vehicle owners in Ottawa have told us that they're concerned with vehicle theft and thefts from vehicles. The following information provides a good start for addressing these issues and raising awareness about crime prevention in general. By incorporating these ideas into your daily routine, you will be less likely to become the target of criminals.

We can't do it alone — get informed, get involved and make crime prevention part of your everyday life. Together, we can continue to build a safer Ottawa for all. Contact your local Community Police Centre or visit [ottawapolice.ca](http://ottawapolice.ca) for additional crime prevention tips.

## Reduce the risk

- Don't leave personal identification, vehicle registration or insurance certificates or credit cards in your vehicle.
- Inscribe your vehicle registration number on the stereo system, wheel rims, tools, etc.
- Remove parcels from view.
- Never leave your keys in an unattended vehicle, even when running a quick errand.
- Always close windows and lock all doors.
- If possible, never leave your keys in the car when it is in a parking lot. Choose a lot where the attendant keeps the keys.
- Don't hide spare keys in your vehicle — they can be found.
- Never put your name or address on your house or car keys. This can lead the thief to your home and encourage easy access. Your vehicle registration number is sufficient. As well, keep vehicle and house keys on a separate key ring.
- If you have a garage, use it. Lock both the vehicle and garage.
- Consider installing anti-theft devices.

- Park in well lit areas with pedestrian traffic. Park your vehicle facing the street. Anyone tampering with it is more likely to be seen.

## Protect yourself

- When selling your vehicle, never let a stranger test drive it alone.
- When purchasing a vehicle, check the vehicle and all papers for the correct Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).
- Make a photocopy of your vehicle registration and keep it with your valuable papers.
- Drop your business card down window channels into the door interior.
- Before driving your vehicle, check to make sure no one has stolen or switched your plates.
- Be suspicious of a fresh paint job on a late model, and persons offering to sell cars or car parts at bargain prices.
- Report suspicious persons, abandoned vehicles or any attempts of forced entry to the police.
- Have your keys in hand while approaching your vehicle and check the interior for uninvited passengers.
- If you are driving in a crowded area, keep doors locked and windows up.
- As much as possible, stay in well-lit and well-travelled areas.
- If you suspect you are being followed, make a visible show of writing down the licence plate number, and stop at an open business or police station. Do not drive home if there is no one there.
- If a motorist stops to render assistance, it is safer to remain in your vehicle and ask the motorist to get help.
- If possible, have someone accompany you in underground parking lots.

To reduce the risk and make your vehicle less attractive to thieves and vandals, use these tips and the attached Theft Prevention Card.

## If your vehicle is stolen...

Report the theft to the police immediately. The police will need a complete description. Please complete the following form and keep this pamphlet in a safe place.

Year: .....

Make: .....

Model: .....

Colour: .....

Identification Number: .....

Plate number: .....

Ignition key number: .....

Insurance company: .....

Policy number: .....

Agent/broker: .....

Telephone: .....

Any outstanding features, dents, scratches: .....

.....

.....

Contents of the vehicle (e.g., stereo system): .....

.....

.....



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Every call is important, but not all calls are life-threatening, and not all calls are police emergencies. Whatever the case, we're here to help. You have a role to play: "Make the Right Call."

**9-1-1**

Life-threatening Emergency or  
Crime in Progress

**613-230-6211**

Other emergencies

**613-236-1222**

TTY **613-232-1123**  
Community Police Centres  
and all other enquiries

**613-236-1222**

ext. 7300

TTY 613-760-8100

Call Centre

The Call Centre provides callers with quality telephone-based service for non-emergencies. To report a theft, property damage, missing person or stolen vehicle, contact our Call Centre.

[ottawapolice.ca](http://ottawapolice.ca)

For additional crime prevention tips,  
please visit us at [ottawapolice.ca](http://ottawapolice.ca).



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