

IN WASHINGTON STATE...

- 🚗 A car is stolen every 15 minutes.
- 🚗 93 cars are stolen every day.
- 🚗 More vehicles have been stolen this year than any other year.
- 🚗 One out of five stolen cars are started with a key that was left in the car.
- 🚗 Many stolen vehicles are used for other crimes.
- 🚗 Auto theft in 2003 cost Washington State taxpayers over \$273 million.

TOP 10 STOLEN VEHICLES

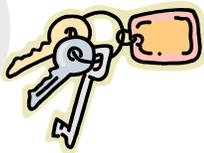
The top 10 stolen vehicles reported by law enforcement agencies in Washington State are:

Honda Accord
Honda Civic
Toyota Camry
Toyota Truck
Chevrolet Truck
Ford Truck
Acura Integra
Nissan Truck
Nissan Sentra

Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

🚗 Never leave your keys in your car...don't make it easy to steal!



- 🚗 Never hide a second key on your car.
- 🚗 Always lock your car.
- 🚗 Park in well-lighted areas.

- 🚗 Don't leave valuables in plain sight.
- 🚗 Never leave the motor running in your driveway or whenever your car is unattended.
- 🚗 Completely close car windows.
- 🚗 Use anti-theft devices like car alarms, locking bars, LoJack™, On-Star™, or other like technologies.
- 🚗 Keep a protective eye on your neighbor's car.

The Washington State Patrol is aggressively working to reduce car theft, but we need YOUR help!

- 🚗 Call your local law enforcement if you see someone acting suspicious.
- 🚗 Keep outdoor lights on at night.
- 🚗 Remember to always take your keys!
- 🚗 Even if you're insured, car theft will cost you! Insurance deductibles, replacement costs, alternative transportation costs, and increased insurance rates! The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates each car theft in the U.S. costs taxpayers \$6,701!

BUYING A VEHICLE

- 🚗 Use common sense. If the price looks too good to be true, IT MOST LIKELY IS!
- 🚗 Do not meet the seller in an unsafe location or alone. Meet at a permanent location such as the seller's residence or place of employment. Avoid situations where you only reach the seller on a cell phone or pager.
- 🚗 Do not let the seller know if you are bringing cash.

🚗 Ask the seller for valid picture identification and compare information to vehicle registration information.

🚗 Review ownership documents. Beware of pre-signed titles, sellers who are not both the registered and legal owner, newly issued titles, forged titles, or rebuilt/salvage wording on the title.

🚗 Be sure all Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) match. Look for the numbers on both the VIN plates (dash and driver's door) and license plates. The numbers should be the same as on the registration title.

🚗 Research the vehicle's history BEFORE you buy using services offered on the Internet. Examples of services to help you determine a vehicle's history are CARFAX, carbuyingtips.com, Autocheck.com, autobuyersadvice.com, and many other such services.

🚗 Do not buy a vehicle with a VIN plate that appears to have been tampered.

🚗 Note the differences in interior features. Are all of the items the correct color?

🚗 Before you pay, be sure the documentation is adequate to obtain registration and legal title. If there is any doubt, check with the Department of Licensing (DOL) before buying.

SELLING A VEHICLE

🚗 Do not invite a buyer you do not know into your home. The buyer could be a burglar or thief casing your car or house.

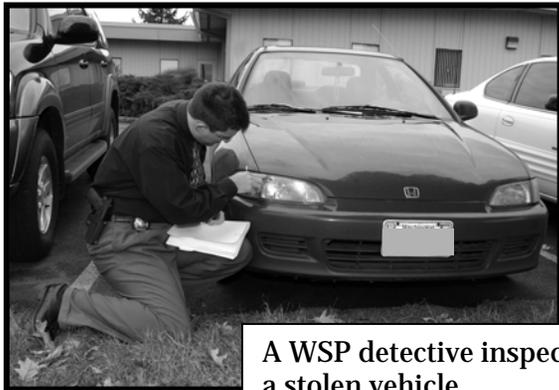
 Do not give out unnecessary personal information about yourself, your family, or your schedule.

 Do not consider a test drive until you are confident the buyer is legitimate. Be sure the buyer has a valid driver's license with a photo. Leave the information about the buyer with someone who is not going on the test drive with you.

 Limit the test drive to areas that are familiar to you.

 Do not surrender the ownership documents until you have verified the funds are valid. Consider going to the bank the personal or cashier's check is drawn on to consummate the transaction.

 Complete the Report of Sale portion of the vehicle title with an odometer reading and all pertinent information about the buyer, as well as the date and time of sale. Have it signed by both parties and keep a copy. Immediately send the Report of Sale to the Department of Licensing. You remain financially liable for accidents and certain other matters until the proper paperwork is filed with DOL.



A WSP detective inspects a stolen vehicle.

District 1 – Tacoma
2502 112th St E
Tacoma WA 98445-5104
(253) 536-6210

District 2 – Bellevue
2803 156th Ave SE
Bellevue WA 98007-6523
(425) 649-4370

District 3 – Yakima
2715 Rudkin Rd
Union Gap WA 98903-1795
(509) 575-2320

District 4 – Spokane
6403 W Rowand Rd
Spokane WA 99224-5325
(509) 456-4101

District 5 – Vancouver
11018 NE 51st Circle
Vancouver WA 98682-6686
(360) 260-6333

District 6 – Wenatchee
2822 Euclid Ave
Wenatchee WA 98801-5916
(509) 663-9721

District 7 – Marysville
2700 116th St NE
Marysville WA 98271-9425
(360) 658-2588

District 8 – Bremerton
4811 Werner Rd
Bremerton WA 98312-3333
(360) 478-4646

Web Site:
www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/autothef.htm

**The Washington State Patrol...
...Making a Difference Every Day!**



Criminal Investigation Division Auto Theft Section

**Protection
Against Vehicle
Theft and Fraud**

