



Town of Ponce Inlet POLICE DEPARTMENT



Frank Fabrizio ★ Police Chief

Car Burglaries Are Preventable

The vast majority of burglaries from motor vehicles that occur in our town can be prevented. How? Lock your vehicle doors, no matter where you leave your vehicle or for how long.

In past few days, a couple residents in Ponce Inlet have had their vehicles burglarized. The information gleaned from reports show that simply locking the car doors is all the deterrent a burglar needs to move along.

Offenders simply walk up and down residential streets and pull on car doors until an unlocked door is found. They then ransack the vehicle and look for anything with a high resale value, (typically electronics like laptops, tablets and GPS units) cash and firearms. They did not break the windows, as doing so would have drawn attention to them. He or she then proceeded to the next vehicle in search of more unlocked doors and more items to steal.

These burglaries only take a matter of seconds. What we need to do is to make their job more difficult by slowing them down. There are several steps that you can take to make your vehicle less of a target for thieves:

1. **LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS!!** Experience has taught us that over 80% of our car burglaries were done on unlocked cars. This is the simplest and most effective way to enhance the prevention process.
2. Keep your vehicle free from quick cash type items and limit what is kept inside. Do not leave purses, wallets, G.P.S., MP3 players or iPods, computers, tablets, book-bags, sunglasses, money, or ANYTHING of value, inside your car. If there is nothing of value in plain view, the thief will move onto the next target. A good rule of thumb is, if you want it, they will want it.
3. Try to park your automobile in a well-lit area, and be aware of your surroundings.

If you do observe people in the area loitering, lifting door handles, or looking into car windows, immediately report those persons to the police by calling 911. Recognize that many crimes have been solved because citizens have taken the initiative to call 911 to report the in-progress crime. Calling the police can make a difference!

If it doesn't look right, it probably isn't; err on the side of caution. If you see suspicious people or unusual occurrences, call the police right away. Trust your instincts; they are usually correct and they could help us catch an offender!

Stay Aware and Alert,
Chief Frank Fabrizio