

Safety Tips

- Always lock your car and remove the keys.
- Always park in a well-lit area at night or during extended parking periods.
- Never leave valuable objects in plain view. Put them in the trunk, under the seat, or cover with a blanket.
- Notify the Hernando County Sheriff's Office of any suspicious persons or vehicles in your neighborhood.
- If you have a garage, use it! If you have to park your vehicle in your driveway overnight, be sure to leave your exterior lights or motion lights on.
- If you discover your vehicle has been burglarized, do not touch/adjust anything in, on or around the car. Call the Hernando County Sheriff's Office to report the incident.



For more information:

Hernando County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 10070
Brooksville, FL 34603-0070
(352) 754-6830

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

www.hernandosheriff.org

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Hernando County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Al Nienhuis

Vehicle Burglaries



"But I was only away from my car for a minute!" Every day people leave their vehicles unattended for short periods of time and when they return, their vehicles are gone or have been burglarized.



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THE TRUE COST OF VEHICLE BURGLARY:

Vehicle burglaries are primarily a crime of opportunity. An unlocked door presents that opportunity to enter the car and search for valuables. If we take away the opportunity, we can prevent most burglaries and reduce crime in our neighborhoods.

A “**smash and grab**” is primarily the result of valuables being clearly visible to the suspect. They know that smashing the window will allow them to grab whatever they can see.

“I’ll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If someone hears one loud sound, he’ll stop what he’s doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn’t hear it again, he’ll just go back to what he was doing. It’s human

Car-hopping is the act of secretly entering someone’s vehicle and taking whatever one finds useful, profitable or interesting. Car-hopping refers to someone walking down the street approaching parked cars, and casually checking to see if one of the doors is unlocked.

“Hey dude, let’s go car-hopping this weekend. Last time, I earned over \$350, got a video, iPod, stereo equipment, sub woofer and 2 wallets.”

The train of thought from most citizens is that leaving the door unlocked prevents them from having to replace a broken window. The statistics contradict this.

VEHICLE BURGLARY STATISTIC:

- **80% are committed as a result of unlocked doors.**

There are a few factors to consider in protecting yourself and your community from vehicle burglaries.

Insurance:

- **DOES NOT** normally pay the true value to replace stolen goods.
- **DOES NOT** compensate for the loss of personal information you have collected over the years, (i.e., names, addresses, phone numbers, etc.).
- **CANNOT** replace the sentiment that you have in irreplaceable items or family heirlooms.
- **DOES NOT** compensate you for the time it takes to repurchase, replace, or rebuild whatever was stolen from you.
- **DOES NOT** compensate for time out of work dealing with the issues related to protecting your identity and/or replacing stolen items.

- **DOES NOT** replace the loss of life or income from serious injury as a result of your unsecured firearm getting into the wrong hands.
- **OFTEN** increases insurance premiums in many cases after a claim is filed. The cost of burglary is more than you think. It is much easier to lock your doors and reduce your chances of being victimized.

The primary deterrent to vehicle burglaries in Hernando County, based on reported crimes, is to hide valuables and lock doors. Help prevent crime and lower crime in your own neighborhood by securing your vehicles and hiding your valuables.



LOCK IT OR
LOSE IT