

DON'T BE A VICTIM!

Items visible in your car attract criminals

Many car break-ins occur in busy parking lots during the day.

Breaking into a locked car takes less than a minute!

A car prowler will target every visible item.

**DON'T LEAVE
ANYTHING
IN YOUR CAR!**



Block Watch: 625-3301

NEIGHBORHOOD C.O.P.S. SHOPS

C.O.P.S. East Central.....	625-3330
2116 E. 1 st Ave. 99202	
C.O.P.S. Logan.....	625-3333
802 E. Sharp Ave. 99202	
C.O.P.S. Neva-Wood.....	625-3353
4705 N. Addison St. 99207	
C.O.P.S. NEWTECH.....	354-7447
4141 N. Regal St. 99207	
C.O.P.S. North Central.....	625-3348
806 W. Knox Ave. 99205	
C.O.P.S. Northeast.....	625-3343
5124 N. Market St. 99217	
C.O.P.S. Northwest.....	625-3336
2215 W. Wellesley Ave. #D 99205	
C.O.P.S. Southeast.....	625-3326
2809 E. 29 th Ave. 99223	
C.O.P.S. Southwest.....	755-2677
1403 W. 3 rd Ave 99201	
C.O.P.S. West.....	625-3340
1901 W. Boone Ave. 99201	



SPOKANE C.O.P.S. MAIN OFFICE
6107 N. Astor St.
Spokane, WA 99208
625-3300
www.spokanecops.org
CRIME CHECK - 456-2233

VEHICLE PROWLING



**DON'T LEAVE
ANYTHING
IN YOUR CAR!**

SPOKANE C.O.P.S.

Most car prowlings occur in busy, unattended parking lots. They can occur during daytime hours as well as evenings. It only takes from 30 seconds to one minute to break into your car. Thieves are looking for money and items which can be sold for drugs and personal information that can be used for fraud and identity theft.

It is important to realize that everything in a car can appear to have value to someone who is desperately looking for a way to buy drugs, such as your newly dry-cleaned clothes, duffel bags with workout clothes and tennis shoes, CDs, stereo speakers and cell phones.

Vehicle prowling is one of the easiest and quickest ways criminals can steal your identity and commit fraud.

DON'T TEMPT A PROWLER!

DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING IN YOUR CAR!

PREVENTING BREAK-INS

☼ **Lock your car!** Leaving your car unlocked only makes it easier for thieves to go through your car. If they have to break a window, they will not linger in the car for long since it looks suspicious. Entering an unlocked car does not attract attention.

☼ **Don't leave loose change in your car.** Thieves have been known to break into cars for a dollar's worth of change.



☼ **Don't display stereo brand name stickers on your vehicle.** It could be assumed that you have one installed in your car...ready for the taking.

☼ **Don't put purses or wallets** under the seat or floor mats. Thieves know to look in those places.

☼ **Don't leave the garage door opener visible** in the car, as it is the key to your house.



☼ **Don't leave athletic bags,** book bags or shopping bags in the car. Each one of these items may contain articles which have value and can be sold.

☼ **Clear the car of all articles BEFORE** leaving for your destination, either by taking them completely out of the car or by putting them in the trunk. Do not go to your destination and then put valuables into the trunk. You could be observed.

☼ **Park as close to entrances** as possible. Parking out in the open makes your car less of a target than if it is parked between two vans.

☼ When traveling, always be alert to vehicle prowling. **Out-of-state license plates and maps** on the dashboard tell prowlers that luggage may be in the car. Take everything out of the car at motels and hotel parking lots.

Why so many car break-ins?

☼ **Drug use** is still a chronic problem in Spokane and is on the rise across the country.

☼ **To pay for these drugs,** users have a desperate need to steal items they can sell quickly. Their life revolves around stealing, selling, buying drugs, using drugs and then beginning the cycle all over again.

Why break into cars?

☼ **A car provides easy access** and has enough items in it that can be sold for the \$20-\$50 needed for purchasing drugs.

What items are commonly stolen and what is done with them?

☼ **Checkbooks, credit cards and cash** are often left in cars and supply ready funds for the drug user.

☼ **Shopping bags** with receipts provide the opportunity to return those items to the store and receive cash back.

☼ **CDs** are easily sold at stores which trade in used CDs.

☼ **Athletic bags** contain expensive tennis shoes and the bag itself is worth money to the drug user.



☼ Basically, **any item** can be sold at a garage or yard sale, second hand store, on the street or through a network of criminals dealing in stolen goods.