

## VIN Etching

VIN's or Vehicle Identification Numbers have been placed on vehicles since 1969. One VIN has been engraved on a metal plate on the dashboard near the windshield. Others, depending on the manufacturer, are placed in and on various parts of the vehicle.

When a car is reported stolen, law enforcement agencies send this number to the FBI's computerized National Crime Information Center. While the engine and transmission typically have VIN's, a new program has been instituted to further protect your vehicle from theft which is etching the VIN on the windows utilizing a chemical process.

## Collar

The collar is a device that may be purchased at an auto supply dealer. The collar is made for all vehicles and may be installed by the purchaser.

## Steering Wheel Locking Device

Steering wheel locking devices are hardened steel rods that lock the steering wheel and prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Another steering wheel lock device that is less expensive is a bar or grid lock— an adjustable steel rod that hooks under the break and locks to the steering wheel. The above items may be purchased at many auto supply dealers.

## Other Devices

There are several GPS vehicle tracking devices available. These tracking devices are extremely helpful in the quick recovery of the vehicle and arrest of the suspect. Some devices are a one time expense that is surprisingly inexpensive compared to the cost of the vehicle.

Another system is the ignition disabler that disables the starter when the engine is turned off. This can be activated by a code, a key, a toggle switch, or a pressure pad. This device must be installed at a qualified auto service shop.



## University Police

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Phone: 407-823-5555

Auto Theft/Burglary

**Don't let a  
Criminal Drive or  
Steal From Your  
Car**



Every day people leave their vehicles unattended for short periods of time and when they return, their vehicles are gone or have been burglarized.

**\*In 2006, the number of auto thefts in Florida averaged 209 per day.**

\*Reference [www.fdle.state.us](http://www.fdle.state.us)

### Why do criminals steal cars?

- High profile and low risk
- Joyride
- Chop Shop/parts/stereo equipment

### General Rules To Avoid Auto Theft/Burglary...

- Always lock your car and remove keys.
- Lock valuables in the trunk.
- Don't leave unattended vehicle running.
- Use an alarm or wheel lock device.
- Photocopy important vehicle information and keep it in your wallet/purse.
- Park in a garage or well lighted areas.
- Don't hide spare keys in the car.
- Always be aware of surroundings.
- Record serial numbers of aftermarket stereo equipment.
- Keep interior of vehicle free of "junk."
- Engrave your driver license number on your stereos, speakers, and cellular phones.
- Etch vehicle Id number on the windshield.
- Report any suspicious activity to Law Enforcement.

**NOTE:** Citizens should contact their insurance companies for recommendations on other preventative measures. Some insurance companies may offer a discount for specific alarm equipment.

### Carjacking

A recent trend in auto theft is carjacking. Carjacking is when a car is taken from a person either by force or a threat of force. There is no guaranteed way of avoiding being carjacked, but there are some simple precautions that you can incorporate into your daily routine to increase your safety.

### Before You Enter Your Car

- Be aware of your surroundings. Have a plan of action.
- Have your keys in your hand.
- Make sure no one is hiding in or under your car.



### If Confronted...

- Avoid verbal/physical confrontation.
- If confrontation is unavoidable, do what is necessary to end the conflict.
- Avoid leaving in a car with a carjacker. Take your chances right there instead of at some remote secondary crime scene.
- Once the criminals leave, walk or run away and call law enforcement immediately. Be ready to give a description of your car and the suspect(s).

### Entering/Exiting Your Vehicle

- Keep your doors and windows locked.
- Plan your route. Be aware of your surroundings. Crooks prey on people who appear distracted.
- Avoid known trouble spots. Trust your instincts.
- Never overload your arms with packages.
- Allow room between your car and the one in front of you so you can drive around it quickly if you need to get away from a situation.
- If your vehicle is bumped from behind and it seems suspicious, motion to the driver to follow you. Move at a slow but steady speed to the nearest well-lighted, well-populated area and immediately call law enforcement.
- Avoid going out alone after dark.
- Park in well lighted areas near the entrance of the building.
- Have keys in hand as you approach your car.
- Keep valuables out of plain view in your car.

### Non-Emergency Law Enforcement Numbers

UCF Police	407-823-5555
Orange County	407-836-4357
Seminole County	407-665-6600
Orlando Police	321-235-5300
FL. Hwy. Patrol	407-737-2200