



## Prevent Vehicle Break-Ins

### What items are most attractive to thieves?

- GPS devices
- Cell phones
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Cameras
- Clothing
- Jewelry
- Firearms
- Tools
- Purses/Wallets



If your vehicle has already been broken into and the thieves are gone, report in person or over the phone.



### How a thief enters your vehicle:

- smashing windows - there are tools especially made that break windows very quietly
- when doors are left unlocked
- when windows are left rolled down
- with shaved keys (special filed keys that fit any door lock)
- using slim jims (tools designed to open vehicle doors)

### *Cottage Grove Police Department*

400 E. Main Street  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
Phone (541) 942-9145  
[www.cgpolice.org](http://www.cgpolice.org)

*A TRADITION OF SERVICE*



Cottage Grove Police  
Department





## Here's how to reduce your risk of being a victim.

### Don't leave **ANYTHING**

**in your car. Any item can attract attention and tempt thieves to break in to your vehicle. Lock your vehicle every time you leave it, even if only for a short time.**

- Completely close your car windows when parking. Don't make it easy for a thief to gain entry.
- Always take your keys with you. Don't try to hide them on or near your vehicle. An experienced thief knows where all the hiding places are.
- Don't leave a trace. Don't leave any sign that there may be valuables "out of sight," in your vehicle. For example, the mounting bracket on your dashboard or a charging cord might tell thieves you have a GPS or cell phone/MP3 player in your glove box.
- Park in well-lit high activity locations. Thieves prefer breaking into cars in isolated areas.
- If you must leave something in your car, think about your risk. Consider placing items in your trunk before arriving at your destination. Someone may be watching you when you put your valuables under the seat or in the trunk.
- A car alarm can be a deterrent but don't let it lull you into complacency. Lock doors, roll up windows and don't leave anything in the car.
- Park your car in your garage at home.
- Remember, your garage door opener is a key to your home. Secure it on your person, not in your car.
- Upon leaving or entering your vehicle, be observant of people and activities. Report anything suspicious to the Cottage Grove Police Department right away by calling the non-emergency number, 541-942-9145 press #1.



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