



Sheriff Walter L. Davis III

Delaware County Sheriff's Office
Community Relations

Sheriff Watch

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Information disseminated is intended to inform citizens of criminal and suspicious activity in and around residential and business areas that affect our community. The information provided is intended to provide a proactive approach to our law enforcement services and enhance the communication between the community and law enforcement officials that serve and protect the citizens of Delaware County. Any questions or concerns, or any information that needs to be disseminated immediately, contact the Delaware County Sheriff's Office Community Relations Division 740-833-2886.

Protect Your Vehicle From Theft

Analysis of Delaware County crime trends shows, over the past several years, vehicle break-ins begin to increase in the springtime. By summer, there is a notable rise in the number of cases reported. In an effort to curb this trend, the Sheriff's Office is issuing this safety reminder to our community.

Thefts from vehicles are *crimes of opportunity*. While in some cases windows were smashed, in a number of other cases, the vehicles are simply left unlocked overnight, making it easy for criminals to help themselves to the contents of the car. In 2010, the Sheriff's Office investigated quite a few cases where unlocked vehicles were parked inside garages which were left open overnight. This is an invitation for trouble.

We live in a beautiful community where most people are friendly. It is easy to be lulled into a false sense of security. Some people mistakenly think thefts from vehicles happen mostly in high-crime neighborhoods. We in law enforcement know that thieves act when they see an easy target.

Before you walk away from your car, the Sheriff's Office recommends taking less than one minute to look at the car through the eyes of a thief. Is your GPS device in plain view? If it is, remove it and secure it in your glove box or trunk. Remember to remove the cradle from the window, it tells a bad guy that there's a GPS in the car. Other hot commodities for thieves include small electronics like iPhones and iPods. Book bags, jackets, cell phones, sunglasses and laptops left in plain sight are also prime targets. Take these items inside or hide them from view.

The Sheriff's Office patrols our community around the clock. We are most effective when citizens work with us to safeguard their property. Here are a few preventative measures that can greatly reduce the chances your vehicle will become a target:

- Always lock your car doors
- Completely close your windows and sunroof
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle
- Do not leave your garage door opener in a vehicle that is parked outside
- Keep your car neat
- Park in a well-lit area

An office committed to protecting our homes, our schools and our community while providing the highest levels of integrity, accountability and professionalism to the people we serve.