

What is Auto Burglary?

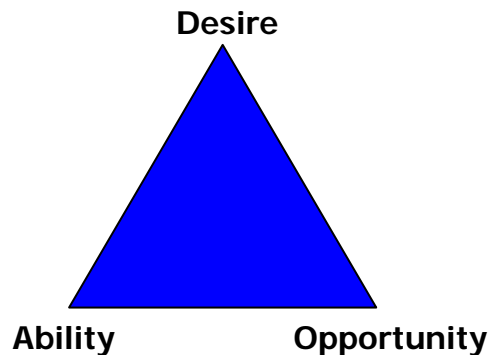
Auto Burglary is theft of property (any value) from a secured vehicle. This is a felony.

What is Theft from Auto?

Theft from auto is theft of property from an unsecured vehicle. This is a misdemeanor if the value does not exceed \$400.

How Can Your Complacency Affect Crime?

The three elements needed to commit a crime are **DESIRE**, **ABILITY**, and **OPPORTUNITY**. Complacency creates opportunity and ability. As the graphic below illustrates, if you can remove the opportunity or ability, you can prevent the crime.



2009 Menlo Park Vehicle Statistics	
Stolen Vehicles	44
Auto Burglaries	113
Thefts from Autos	46

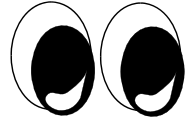
What Items Are Most Commonly Stolen from Vehicles?

- ★ GPS devices
- ★ Cash
- ★ Computers
- ★ Cell phones (& chargers)
- ★ CDs and CD cases
- ★ Day planners
- ★ Garage door openers
- ★ Gym bags
- ★ Jewelry
- ★ Keys
- ★ Mail
- ★ Purses/briefcases
- ★ Stereos and faceplates
- ★ Tools
- ★ Wallets (even if under seat)



THIS IS WHAT YOUR CAR LOOKS LIKE TO A THIEF!

Look inside for auto burglary prevention tips



How can Auto Burglary lead to Residential Burglary?

Garage door opener or House key in car



Registration or Mail in car



Home Burglary

What Steps Can I Take To Prevent Becoming a Victim?

1. **Remove visible items from your vehicle.** If you leave items visible in your car, *you are a target*. Be aware that someone may be watching as you put a wallet, purse, or cell phone under your seat, especially at a gym. Take these items with you.



2. Lock it Up!

- ★ **Lock your vehicle and take your keys, even for quick errands.**
- ★ **Lock the trunk**, hatchback or tailgate to block access into the car.
- ★ **Close all windows, including vent or wing windows and sunroofs.**
- ★ **Buy an alarm and use it!** Many people believe that alarms no longer make a difference, however, they remain an effective deterrent to a burglar. Criminals will choose the easiest target.

- ★ **Vehicle Registration** - Black out the address on your registration and photocopy it. Keep the copy, not the original, in your car. (*This is legal.*)
- ★ **Mail** - Do not leave mail in your car, especially where visible. This has your name and address (and possibly Social Security, credit card, or bank account numbers) on it.

3. Park Safely!

- ★ At home, park in your **garage** if you have one. Lock your car and all garage doors.
- ★ Park in a **well-lit** area.
- ★ Check to see that your vehicle is **visible from pedestrian and vehicular traffic.**
- ★ **Avoid alleys.**

What Else Can I Do To Protect My Property?

- ★ **Install lighting controls.**

Install motion sensor or photocell lights on the exterior of your garage if you park in your driveway or on the street. Motion sensors will trigger your light to come on when it senses activity in the immediate area. Photocell lights will turn on at dusk and off at dawn automatically.



- ★ **Garage Door Opener** - Avoid leaving this in your car if possible. If you must keep it in your car, remove it from sight or lock it in your glove box.
- ★ **Keys** - Never leave keys in your car.



Menlo Park Police Department
Emergency – 9 1 1
Non-emergency – 650-330-6300