



Avoid Some Crime with the Push of a Button

As the weather gets warmer each year, it is common to see an increase in thefts from automobiles, a crime known as Burglary To Motor Vehicle (BTMV). You can reduce your risk of becoming a target with the simple push of a button.

In almost every single BTMV case reported in West Dundee, the vehicles were left unlocked, with valuables in plain sight.

Hot items taken in BTMV's have included GPS units, cell phones/personal electronics, wallets/purses, cash, coins and even cigarettes.

The West Dundee Police Department needs your help to deter these crimes. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1. Lock It or Lose It.** You can make your vehicle & valuables less of a target by simply "*pushing a button*"...your vehicle's *door lock button*. Would-be thieves make their rounds trying car doors...no burglar tools are needed when doors are left unlocked. It only takes a split second to save yourself hours on the phone cancelling credit cards, making Police reports and filing insurance claims.
- 2. Do not leave valuables in your vehicles.** If you must leave valuable items in your vehicle, hide them from plain view! Under a seat, under a blanket, in the glove box. If your doors are locked and the car appears empty, burglars are less likely to bother with your car. Most thieves do not want to attract attention to themselves by breaking a window or attempting other ways to force entry, *unless* they see something inside the car that they really want.
- 3. Park your car inside your garage or in a well-lit area.** Thieves prefer to operate in dark, low-light areas because it is easier to conceal themselves and their activity. If you must park your car outside in the driveway or on the street, turn on those outside garage or porch lights. If that is not an option, park close to the nearest street light.



Finally, if you see someone acting suspiciously in your neighborhood call the QuadCom Dispatch Center at 9-1-1 or 847-428-8784.

For more Crime Prevention Tips or any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the West Dundee Police Department at 847-551-3810, Monday thru Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM, or by email at police@wdundee.org.