

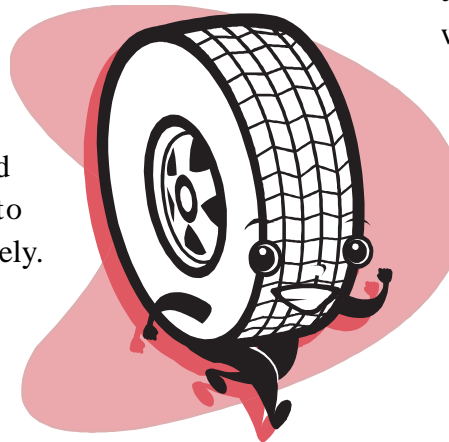
Make it difficult for a thief to steal your “wheels”

In the United States, a vehicle is stolen *every 21 seconds!* Unfortunately, Pima County is no different. Due to our relative proximity to the border, the high frequency of stolen cars, trucks, vans, and motorcycles cost victims time and money... as well as increased insurance premiums.

There is help, and steps can be taken to prevent this crime from happening to you. Together with the Pima County Sheriff's Department, and some prevention on your part, we can make a dent in auto theft rates in our community.

Basic Prevention

- Never leave your car running or your keys in the car, even if you are just “away for a minute.”
- Always roll up the windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home.
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked, as they may attract criminals. Put them in the trunk, or at least out of sight. Use car stereos that are removable or have removable face plates.
- Park in busy, well-lit areas.
- Carry the registration and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal information in your vehicle, as it could invite identity theft.
- When you park with a valet, leave only the ignition key, and no personal information. Do the same if you leave your car for repairs.
- If your vehicle is stolen, call 9-1-1 and report the theft to authorities immediately.



Add Extra Protection

- Install a mechanical locking device, also known as a “club,” collar, or j-bar, that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the steering wheel from being turned more than a few degrees.
- Etch the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the windows, doors, engine block, fenders, and trunk lid, to discourage professional thieves from taking your car. Also, keep a copy of your VIN with you to give to police should your vehicle be stolen.
- Look into vehicle alarms if you live in a high crime area, or drive a vehicle model that is frequently stolen. In addition, you may get a break on auto insurance.
- Register your vehicle with the “Watch Your Car Program.” Once registered, a sticker is displayed in the rear window and law enforcement can pull your vehicle over between 1:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. to ensure that you are the registered owner. Also, watch for Pima County Sheriff's Department community events where you can register for “Watch Your Car.”

Prevent Carjacking

Carjacking... the frightening crime in which your vehicle is taken from you by force. Often in the headlines, this crime seems to be on the rise. Here are some tips on how to prevent this potentially violent crime.

- Approach your vehicle with your keys in hand. Look around and inside before entering. Once in your vehicle, lock your doors, start it and leave immediately.
- Keep windows up and doors locked at all times, and always be aware of your surroundings.
- Park in well-lit areas with good visibility, close to walkways, stores, and people. If the carjacker shows a weapon, give up your vehicle immediately, and get away from it immediately! Do not go with the carjacker.
- If you are rear ended in traffic, someone may be attempting a “bump and rob.” Evaluate the situation before unlocking and exiting your vehicle, and if circumstances seem suspicious, indicate to the other driver that you would like to move to a safer area to exchange information.
- Most importantly, be aware of your surroundings, and be prepared to react to any given situation.

Contact Us

For more information on auto theft prevention, the Watch Your Car Program, Pima County Sheriff's Department steering lock giveaways, and other Crime Prevention issues, contact the Pima County Sheriff's Department's Community Resources Team at (520) 741-4615. We'll be happy to talk to you about educational materials, brochures, and safety presentations. Call today.



PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff of Pima County

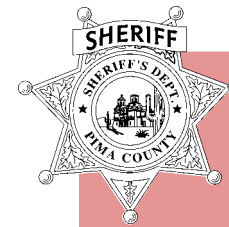
Community Resources Team
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Tucson, Arizona 85714
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www.pimasheriff.org



Crime Prevention Tips From
National Crime Prevention Council
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20006-3817
www.weprevent.org



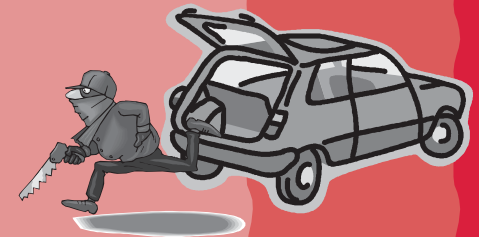
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Pima County
Sheriff's Department

AUTO THEFT

It CAN Happen to YOU



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