



Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse Rim & Tire Theft Prevention Tips *“Crime Prevention through Education”*

When it comes to stealing a vehicle’s rims and tires time is a thief’s worst enemy. The longer it takes the greater the chances they will be caught. If thieves feel they will have to spend extended time on your vehicle they will move to an easier target. Below is a list of tips for you to use which will help make your vehicle less attractive to potential thieves.

- When possible, park your vehicle inside your garage. Lock both the vehicle and garage.
- Park your vehicle as far away from the road or sidewalk as possible.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Vehicle alarm systems with a motion sensor work best. Most factory installed alarms only work when a door is opened.
- When parking your vehicle for the night turn your front tires all the way to the right or left. This makes it difficult for thieves to remove the lug nuts and get the wheel out of the fender well. In most cases thieves want to steal all four rims and tires.
- If there is more than one vehicle in your family park them side-by-side close to each other. This reduces the space thieves need to work. You can also park close to your home.
- Adding locking lug nuts, one per rim, helps deter or slow down thieves.
- Mark your rims, preferably on the inside, with an identification number. Identifiers such as a license plate number or a Vehicle Identification Number (V.I.N) can be used by Law Enforcement to locate the owner. **NEVER** mark your rims with personal numbers.
- Take close-up pictures of your rims. If needed they can be used for identification since they will show scratches, marks left by old weights, etc.
- All tires sold in the United States are required to have a Department of Transportation Tire Identification Number branded on the sidewall. Writing down or taking pictures of each tire’s D.O.T number can be helpful when identifying your rims and tires.

