



Public Safety Alert, Increasing thefts from vehicles, Crime prevention information

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53 Division
416-808-5300

The Toronto Police Service would like to make the public aware of an increase in thefts from vehicles within Toronto.

Police have noticed a significant increase in the theft of GPS units from vehicles.

Thefts from vehicles are crimes of opportunity. Here are some tips to protect your personal belongings:

- 1) do not leave anything in your vehicle in plain sight,
- 2) always lock your doors, even if you plan to be away from your vehicle for only a minute, such as running in to pay for gas,
- 3) park in well-lighted areas,
- 4) when shopping, always make sure to place purchases in the trunk, and out of sight, before going to the next shopping area to park,
- 5) try to maintain a "clutter-free" vehicle,
- 6) if you don't have the opportunity to park your vehicle in a garage at night, and have to leave it parked in the driveway or on the street in front of the house, make sure to remove the garage-door opener. This is a key to your home,
- 7) remove electronics and their accessories, ie, remove your GPS unit, remove the mounting bracket, remove charging cable, remove the traffic antenna, wipe the windshield clear of tell-tale "look at me!" and the GPS mounting bracket imprints,
- 8) make a note of the make, model and serial number of the equipment and keep the note somewhere safe, not in the car,
- 9) many GPS devices have a configurable "home" address button in the menu system. Do not set this for your home address. You don't want thieves to have this information, especially if

they also have your garage door opener or other items that may be in your car, such as a house key. Set the "home" button for a familiar intersection, or place of business near your home, and the convenient home feature will still serve you well without giving away private information,

10) report all crimes to the police immediately.

Constable Tony Vella, Public Information, for Constable Roy Rawluk, 53 Division