

# Theft: Security Measures

## Cars

A car was left at a long-term parking lot, and someone broke into it. Using the information on the car's registration in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the home and robbed it. If you leave your car in a long-term parking lot, do not leave the registration/insurance cards inside it, nor your remote garage door opener.



A car was broken into while owners attended a football game. Items stolen from the car included a garage-door remote control, money and a GPS, mounted on the dashboard. When the victims returned home, their house had been ransacked and everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves used the GPS to guide them to the house. They used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. They had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents. Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address such as a store or gas station so you can find your way home if you need to, but no one else will know where you live if your GPS is stolen.

## Cell Phones



A lady changed her habit of how she lists names on her cell phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. 20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby said "I received your text asking about our PIN number and I replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the staff told them all the money was withdrawn. The thief actually used the stolen cell phone to text 'hubby' in the contact list and got hold of the pin number.

Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

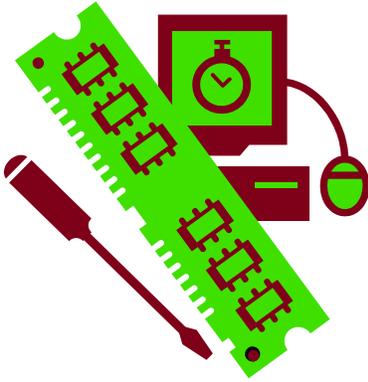
Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc... And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, confirm by calling back. Also, when being texted by friends or family to meet somewhere, call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you, especially about meeting in an alleyway late at night!

## Purse in the grocery cart scam

A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while she reached something off a shelf. Her wallet was stolen, and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She immediately went to pick up her wallet, only to be told by Mall Security that they had not called her. By the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into and burglarized. The thieves knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, they could lure her out of her house long enough for them to burglarize it!



## Before Travel



Scan passport, credit cards, health card, etc., front and back and make digital copies, along with any important telephone numbers, your itinerary including contact information (hotel, etc.) and post to children, spouse. They can then email materials to you anywhere in the world.

Put all important information on a memory clip and keep it in your room.

Strip your wallet before leaving home; removing things not needed such as receipts, lotto tickets, library cards, etc.

Before going out for the day, take just enough cash for lunch and incidentals.

## When on the road

Keep important documents in a zippered security pouch under slacks or around the neck.