

## Anti-Theft Devices

Common sense is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart thieves. Motorists with high-risk vehicles should also consider using several “layers” of protection.

### Layer #1 – Common Sense

#### **Ignition Keys**

If removed from the ignition after every use, ordinary ignition keys can significantly reduce the likelihood of theft.

Cost: Standard in all models  
Benefits: Easy to use

#### **Door Locks/Closed Windows**

Door locks, the original anti-theft device, and closed windows effectively limit access to the vehicle’s interior.

Cost: Standard in all models  
Benefits: Prevents easy access

#### **Park in a Well-Lit Area**

Parking in a well-lit area discourages thieves from approaching a vehicle because of visibility.

Cost: None  
Benefits: Prevents easy access

### Layer #2 – Warning Devices

#### **Audible Alarms**

Audible alarms are typically equipped with motion or impact sensors which trigger a 120-decibel siren.

Cost: \$150 - \$1,000  
Benefits: Effective in preventing thefts, burglaries and vandalism

#### **Steering Column Collars**

Steering column collars prevent thieves from “hot-wiring” the vehicle. Some collars are installed permanently. Others must be continuously activated.

Cost: \$100 - \$200 installed  
Benefits: Excellent protection for older vehicles

#### **Steering Wheel Locks**

A steering wheel lock is a metal bar designed to prevent the steering wheel from turning.

Cost: \$25 - \$100  
Benefits: Excellent visual deterrent

### Layer #2 – Warning Devices

#### **Steering Wheel/Brake Pedal Lock**

Prevents depression of the brake pedal.

Cost: \$15 - \$80  
Benefits: Excellent visible deterrent

#### **Wheel Locks**

Similar to the circular steel “boots” used by many large city police departments, tire locks prevent the vehicle from being driven.

Cost: \$80 - \$200  
Benefits: Excellent visible deterrent

#### **Tire Locks/Tire Deflators**

Attaches to the tire valve stem and causes the tire to go flat if the tire rotates before they are removed.

Cost: Under \$50  
Benefits: Easy and inexpensive to use.

#### **Theft Deterrent Decals**

Theft deterrent decals visually warn thieves the vehicle is protected by an alarm or other anti-theft devices.

Cost: \$2 - \$5  
Benefits: Inexpensive but effective

#### **Identification markers in or on vehicle**

Security labels marking various vehicle parts enabling the part to be identified if removed from the vehicle.

Cost: \$2 - \$15  
Benefits: Inexpensive, discourages thieves from stealing the vehicle and aids in recovery

#### **Window Etching**

Etching the vehicle identification number or other traceable number onto the vehicle’s windows makes it difficult for thieves to resell the vehicle or its parts.

Cost: Free to \$100  
Benefits: Discourages thieves from stealing the vehicle and aids in recovery

## **Layer #2 – Warning Devices**

### **Laminated Glass**

Impact resistant protective glazing applied to vehicle windows designed to fortify the windows against penetration or splintering.

Cost: Standard  
Benefits: Excellent protection for vehicle windows

## **Layer #3 – Immobilizing Devices**

### **Smart Keys**

Smart keys contain specially coded computer chips or radio frequencies. Without the exact key, the vehicle's engine cannot be started.

Cost: Standard in some models  
Benefits: Effective and extremely easy to use

### **Fuse cut-offs**

Short circuits the electrical system, preventing the vehicle from starting.

Cost: \$40 - \$90  
Benefits: Inexpensive and relatively easy to install

### **Kill Switches**

Kill switches inhibit the flow of electricity or fuel to the engine until a hidden switch is activated.

Cost: \$10 - \$125  
Benefits: Inexpensive and relatively easy to install

### **Starter, ignition and fuel disablers**

Short circuits the electrical or fuel system, preventing the vehicle from starting, or causes the vehicle to stop running within a short time.

Cost: Standard in some models  
Benefits: Inexpensive and easy to use

## **Layer #4 – Tracking Devices**

### **Tracking Devices**

Most tracking devices are electronic transmitters hidden in the vehicle which emit signals to the police or monitoring stations when the vehicle is reported stolen.

Cost: \$400 to \$1,500  
Benefits: Effective in recovering stolen vehicles