

*For Further Information
Contact The
Pasco Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention
Division*

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Land O'Lakes
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Ext. 3376

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(352) 521-5100
Ext. 3376 or 5208

EMERGENCY - 911
www.pascosheriff.com



A
Partnership
In
Crime Prevention



*What You Should
Know About*

AUTO THEFT



Distributed Courtesy Of
Sheriff Bob White
Pasco Sheriff's Office

Basic Facts About Auto Theft

- ☞ **One in five vehicles is left unlocked with the keys in the ignition.**

When leaving your car, close windows, lock doors and take the keys with you.

- ☞ **Over half of vehicle thefts occur in residential neighborhoods.**

If you have a garage, use it. Lock the vehicle and the garage door. If not, lock the car and turn the wheels to the left or right. This makes the thief's job harder.

- ☞ **More than two-thirds of auto thefts occur after dark.**

Park in well lighted areas. If you park in an attended lot or garage, leave only the ignition key with the attendant.

- ☞ **One of every five larcenies involves the theft of motor vehicle accessories.**

Consider investing in an alarm system rather than expensive options.

- ☞ **Professional car thieves can strip your vehicle completely within minutes.**

Engrave your driver's license number in a remote location on the radio and accessories, as well as the fenders and doors. If a theft occurs, your driver's license number will make identification, recovery and prosecution more likely.

- ☞ **The longer it takes to steal a car, the more a thief will look elsewhere.**

Automobile manufacturers regularly improve anti-theft equipment they install in vehicles. You may want to consider an anti-theft bar that attaches to your steering wheel, an alarm system or other equipment that will slow down a thief and make him look elsewhere.

How You Can Help Prevent Auto Theft

- ☞ Join your neighborhood Crime Watch or Security Patrol.
 - ☞ Obtain a C.A.T. (Combat Auto Theft) sticker from the Sheriff's Office.
 - ☞ Insure that your civic association regularly addresses prevention of auto theft.
 - ☞ Schedule an Auto Theft Program and have a Crime Prevention Specialist from the Sheriff's Office discuss the issue.
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You Can Assist Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officers need your help and cooperation. Stolen vehicles are often abandoned on city streets, along roadways and in parking lots and shopping centers. You can help locate abandoned or stolen vehicles by looking for the signs.

Identifying Signs Of A Stolen Vehicle

- ☞ Flat tires.
 - ☞ Expired or missing license plate.
 - ☞ Dust or debris on the windshield.
 - ☞ Missing wheels, lights or radio.
 - ☞ Trunk or hood left open.
 - ☞ Interior stripped or motor missing.
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If You Suspect A Stolen Vehicle

If you see a vehicle that has any of the above signs, notify the Sheriff's Office or local law enforcement agency, providing as much of the following information as possible:

- ☞ Exact location of the vehicle.
- ☞ Make and color of the vehicle.
- ☞ License plate number and state, or the Vehicle Identification Number, which can be seen looking in on the driver's side at the bottom of the windshield.

Do not open the doors or get inside the vehicle because you could destroy fingerprints or other evidence if it has been stolen or used in another crime.