



PRESS RELEASE

Tacoma Police Department
Tacoma, Washington
cityoftacoma.org/police

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSA - Tips to Prevent Vehicle Prowls

With the holiday shopping season right around the corner, the Tacoma Police Department would like to remind you of these tips to prevent vehicle prowls. Vehicle prowls are most often crimes of opportunity, completed in a matter of minutes and often with no witnesses. Following these pointers can help reduce your chances of becoming the victim of a vehicle prowl.

- Always lock your vehicle
- Make sure windows are rolled up, sunroofs are shut, and canopies are locked
- Never leave valuables or belongings in your vehicle such as:
 - Garage door openers
 - Keys / key fobs
 - Cell phones / laptop / electronics
 - Checkbooks / Credit cards
 - Backpacks / gym bags / clothing / shopping bags
 - Mail / bank & ATM statements
 - Wallets / Purses
 - Firearms
- If leaving items in your car, place them in your trunk prior to getting to your destination
- Park in well-lit areas when possible
- If you have an alarm, set it

Witnessing a Vehicle Prowl

If you witness a vehicle prowl in progress, do not confront the prowler. Call 911. If possible, be ready to provide a description of the prowler to include:

- Anything that would make the suspect stand out
- Clothing
- Height / weight
- Direction of travel / associated vehicles

Vehicle prowls not in progress can be reported to the non-emergency number, 253 287-4455 or online at TacomaSafe.org.

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