

## Police tips to avoid theft

Even in this season of good cheer, theft persists. Bloomfield Police offer tips for avoiding car theft and stolen packages at front doors. You can also join Neighborhood Watch for greater protection in your neighborhood.

### Avoid car theft

- Don't leave your vehicle with the engine running. Vehicles are commonly stolen from driveways, convenience stores and gas stations.
- Always lock your vehicle and take your keys. Nearly 50% of stolen vehicles were unlocked, and 20% had keys in them.
- Never hide a second set of keys in your car. The extras can be easily found if a thief takes the time to look.
- Keep windows rolled up.
- Don't leave valuables in sight.
- Don't leave registration and insurance cards or the title to your car in the vehicle. A car thief will use them to sell your stolen car. File the title in your home or office and carry registration and insurance cards in your purse or wallet.



### Protect packages

- Arrange for delivery when you expect to be home.
- Install a camera system to help identify thieves.
- Arrange alternative delivery where you can retrieve packages at your leisure: at your office, at the home of a neighbor who will be around, or at a store.
- Leave a note for the mail carrier to leave your package at the post office.
- Alert the mail carrier in advance of any special instruction (i.e., leaving the package in an inconspicuous spot).
- Opt for signature confirmation for package delivery.

### Join Neighborhood Watch

Reduce the risk of being a crime victim and learn ways to keep your home and property safe. Join Neighborhood Watch. Members learn how best to respond to suspicious activity and they get greater access from police to criminal activity information. To join, e-mail [Nzepeda@bloomfieldnjpd.com](mailto:Nzepeda@bloomfieldnjpd.com) or [Yaponte@bloomfieldnjpd.com](mailto:Yaponte@bloomfieldnjpd.com).