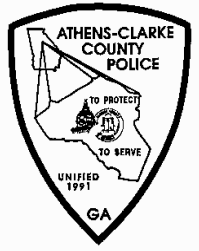




DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM! SECURE YOUR VALUABLES!



The Athens-Clarke County Police Department has noticed a crime trend developing in the area where you live. This crime trend includes thefts from vehicles and burglaries of homes. We want to give area residents some tips on how to keep yourselves and your property safe from thieves. Paying attention to your surroundings and using these tips will help reduce the chance that you will be victimized.

Tips to avoid Entering Auto crime:

1. Try to park only in well lit areas, or as close to your house or apartment as possible. Always lock your car doors and roll up your windows when you leave your vehicle unattended.
2. Secure your valuables (for example, MP3 players, laptops, digital cameras, purses, compact discs, loose change, cell phones, jewelry, etc.) out of sight or in the trunk to remove temptation. If your car stereo has a detachable face, detach the face and take it with you.
3. Car alarms can be an effective auditory deterrent to prevent theft; they can also alert you and your neighbors to possible thefts as they occur or about to occur.

Tips to keep your home and property safe:

1. Invest in high quality door locks, and always use them. Even when you're home, it's a good idea to lock your doors. Remember that deadbolts are the most secure type of door lock; the key should not be left in the lock on the inside.
2. Secure sliding glass doors with a bar or commercially available locking devices. Unsecured sliding glass doors are an invitation to a burglar.
3. Keep all windows secured, and trim hedges, shrubbery and trees away from them.
4. Invest in a high quality, monitored home alarm system. If you already have a home alarm, be sure to arm it every time you leave home.
5. If you have exterior lights, be sure to use them. If you don't have exterior lights, think about purchasing some, and if you rent, inquire if your landlord will install some for you. If you live in an apartment complex and you notice malfunctioning or blown lights, report them to maintenance immediately.
6. Get to know your neighbors and become involved in a neighborhood watch group.
7. If someone or something in your neighborhood appears suspicious, alert the police.
8. Make it appear as if you are home by leaving lights on inside when you leave.
9. Make sure that shades, curtains, or blinds are drawn when you leave home.
10. Work to keep your yard neat and free of trash, and keep litter out of the streets. Areas that look as though the residents care about them are less likely to be the targets of criminals.
11. When you make electronics or other large boxed purchases, or receive these items as gifts, dispose of the packaging promptly by going to the landfill or recycling center. Leaving those boxes at the curb for pickup is alerting others to the contents of your home.
12. Do not leave items like lawn equipment out in your yard, as these items tend to attract thieves.

General rules:

1. Inventory and record serial and model numbers for your valuables (particularly firearms and expensive electronics), This helps law enforcement not only recover your property, but assists in apprehending the thieves.
2. Photograph your jewelry and other non-serial numbered valuables to assist in identification of the property if it is recovered.
3. Report the appearance of graffiti to the police as it occurs.

*Keep in mind that if you're leaving home for an extended period of time, alert the ACCPD Crime Prevention Unit at (706) 613-3358 to arrange for periodic extra patrols of your residence. Also make arrangements to have someone pick up your mail and newspapers or have delivery stopped until you return home.