



EBRSO Tips to Avoid Auto Theft

- Park in well-lit areas with pedestrian traffic.
- Roll up the windows, lock your doors, and take your keys with you.
- Never leave your vehicle running while unattended.
- Hide valuables in a secure location such as the trunk, under the seat, or any place out of view.
- Consider using a steering-wheel locking device to help secure your vehicle.
- Consider installing a security alarm system for your vehicle.
- Consider installing a tracking device in your vehicle to aid law enforcement if it is stolen.
- Consider VIN etching* the windows of your vehicle.
- **NEVER** leave your keys in an unattended vehicle.
- **NEVER** leave your title in your vehicle.
- **NEVER** allow any unknown person to borrow your vehicle.

***VIN etching** is a countermeasure to motor vehicle theft. It most commonly involves the use of a stencil and glass etching paste to etch a vehicle's vehicle identification number (VIN) onto the windshield and windows. Thieves would need to replace the glass before selling the stolen vehicle, thus reducing or eliminating their profit.



EBRSO Tips to Prevent BURGLARIES

- All residents should immediately report any and all suspicious persons or vehicles that are observed in their neighborhoods.
- Valuable items should be kept out of view from public access as items easily observed invite crimes of opportunity. Windows that can be observed from public access should have the drapery or blinds drawn to prevent valuables from being observed.
- Any residence with an alarm should have the alarm activated when unoccupied. The residence should also have posted signs or window decals indicating that it is protected by an alarm system.
- When a planned absence from the residence occurs, mail and newspaper deliveries should be stopped.
- Residents should cooperate with neighborhood watch programs when established. If a neighborhood watch program is not in effect, the neighborhood association should contact EBRSO and establish one.
- Motion detection lighting can be used on the exterior of the residence.
- All locks should be activated when the residence is unoccupied or when residents retire for the night.



EBRSO Tips to Avoid Identity Theft

- Avoid providing your credit card or checking account information over the phone or to make purchases or payments on accounts. If you must provide it over the phone, be sure that you placed the call and know who you are speaking with.
- Avoid using checks to make in-store purchases.
- Pay attention to the person in possession of your credit/debit card at the time of purchase and be sure to get them back from cashier.
- When paying bills, never place your checks in your mailbox and raise the flag for the letter carrier. This notifies thieves that you have checks in your mailbox that they can steal.
- If you must mail your bill payments, place them in a U.S. Postal Service drop box or deliver them in person to the Post Office.
- Daily, check all of your accounts and verify that all of your balances and transactions are accurate. Do a thorough check monthly.
- If a discrepancy is located, immediately notify the financial institution and report the fraudulent activity to your local law enforcement agency.
- Never throw away ATM receipts, credit statements, credit cards, or bank statements in a usable form.
- Keep a list of telephone numbers to call to report the loss or theft of your wallet, credit cards, etc.
- Review a copy of your credit report at least once each year. Notify the credit bureau in writing of any questionable entries and follow through until they are explained or removed.
- If your identity has been assumed, ask the credit bureau to print a statement to that effect in your credit report.

Additional Resources AVAILABLE AT:

[WWW. EBRSO.org](http://www.EBRSO.org)

<http://www.fbi.gov/majcases/fraud/fraudschemes.htm>.

<http://www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com>