

## Anti-Theft Devices

Common sense is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart thieves. Motorists with high-risk vehicles should also consider using several “layers” of protection.

### Layer #1 – Common Sense

#### **Ignition Keys**

If removed from the ignition after every use, ordinary ignition keys can significantly reduce the likelihood of theft.

Cost: Standard in all models  
Benefits: Easy to use

#### **Door Locks/Closed Windows**

Door locks, the original anti-theft device, and closed windows effectively limit access to the vehicle’s interior.

Cost: Standard in all models  
Benefits: Prevents easy access

#### **Park in a Well-Lit Area**

Parking in a well-lit area discourages thieves from approaching a vehicle because of visibility.

Cost: None  
Benefits: Prevents easy access

### Layer #2 – Warning Devices

#### **Audible Alarms**

Audible alarms are typically equipped with motion or impact sensors which trigger a 120-decibel siren.

Cost: \$150 - \$1,000  
Benefits: Effective in preventing thefts, burglaries and vandalism

#### **Steering Column Collars**

Steering column collars prevent thieves from “hot-wiring” the vehicle. Some collars are installed permanently. Others must be continuously activated.

Cost: \$100 - \$200 installed  
Benefits: Excellent protection for older vehicles

#### **Steering Wheel Locks**

A steering wheel lock is a metal bar designed to prevent the steering wheel from turning.

Cost: \$25 - \$100  
Benefits: Excellent visual deterrent

### Layer #2 – Warning Devices

#### **Steering Wheel/Brake Pedal Lock**

Prevents depression of the brake pedal.

Cost: \$15 - \$80  
Benefits: Excellent visible deterrent

#### **Wheel Locks**

Similar to the circular steel “boots” used by many large city police departments, tire locks prevent the vehicle from being driven.

Cost: \$80 - \$200  
Benefits: Excellent visible deterrent

#### **Tire Locks/Tire Deflators**

Attaches to the tire valve stem and causes the tire to go flat if the tire rotates before they are removed.

Cost: Under \$50  
Benefits: Easy and inexpensive to use.

#### **Theft Deterrent Decals**

Theft deterrent decals visually warn thieves the vehicle is protected by an alarm or other anti-theft devices.

Cost: \$2 - \$5  
Benefits: Inexpensive but effective

#### **Identification markers in or on vehicle**

Security labels marking various vehicle parts enabling the part to be identified if removed from the vehicle.

Cost: \$2 - \$15  
Benefits: Inexpensive, discourages thieves from stealing the vehicle and aids in recovery

#### **Window Etching**

Etching the vehicle identification number or other traceable number onto the vehicle’s windows makes it difficult for thieves to resell the vehicle or its parts.

Cost: Free to \$100  
Benefits: Discourages thieves from stealing the vehicle and aids in recovery

## **Layer #2 – Warning Devices**

### **Micro Dot Marking**

The spraying or painting of an epoxy resin on vehicle parts or in components, that contains small particle dots of identifying markings that can be traced back to the vehicles identification number.

Cost: \$150 - \$250  
Benefits: Easy to install, hard to hide or remove

remote monitoring of a vehicle. If the vehicle is moved the system will alert the owner and the vehicle can be tracked via computer.

Cost: \$350 to \$1,000  
Benefits: Lets the owner monitor the vehicles security and location by computer from anywhere.

## **Layer #3 – Immobilizing Devices**

### **Smart Keys**

Smart keys contain specially coded computer chips or radio frequencies. Without the exact key, the vehicle's engine cannot be started.

Cost: Standard in some models  
Benefits: Effective and extremely easy to use

### **Fuse cut-offs**

Short circuits the electrical system, preventing the vehicle from starting.

Cost: \$40 - \$90  
Benefits: Inexpensive and relatively easy to install

### **Kill Switches**

Kill switches inhibit the flow of electricity or fuel to the engine until a hidden switch is activated.

Cost: \$10 - \$125  
Benefits: Inexpensive and relatively easy to install

### **Starter, ignition and fuel disablers**

Short circuits the electrical or fuel system, preventing the vehicle from starting, or causes the vehicle to stop running within a short time.

Cost: Standard in some models  
Benefits: Inexpensive and easy to use

### **Wireless, ignition authentication**

Transmitters located in key fobs or wallet tabs that activates or completes the ignition circuitry.

Cost: \$250 - \$350  
Benefits: Easy to install, hard to detect

## **Layer #4 – Tracking Systems**

These systems emit a signal to police or a monitoring station when the vehicle is stolen. Some systems employ "Telematics" which combine GPS and wireless technologies to allow