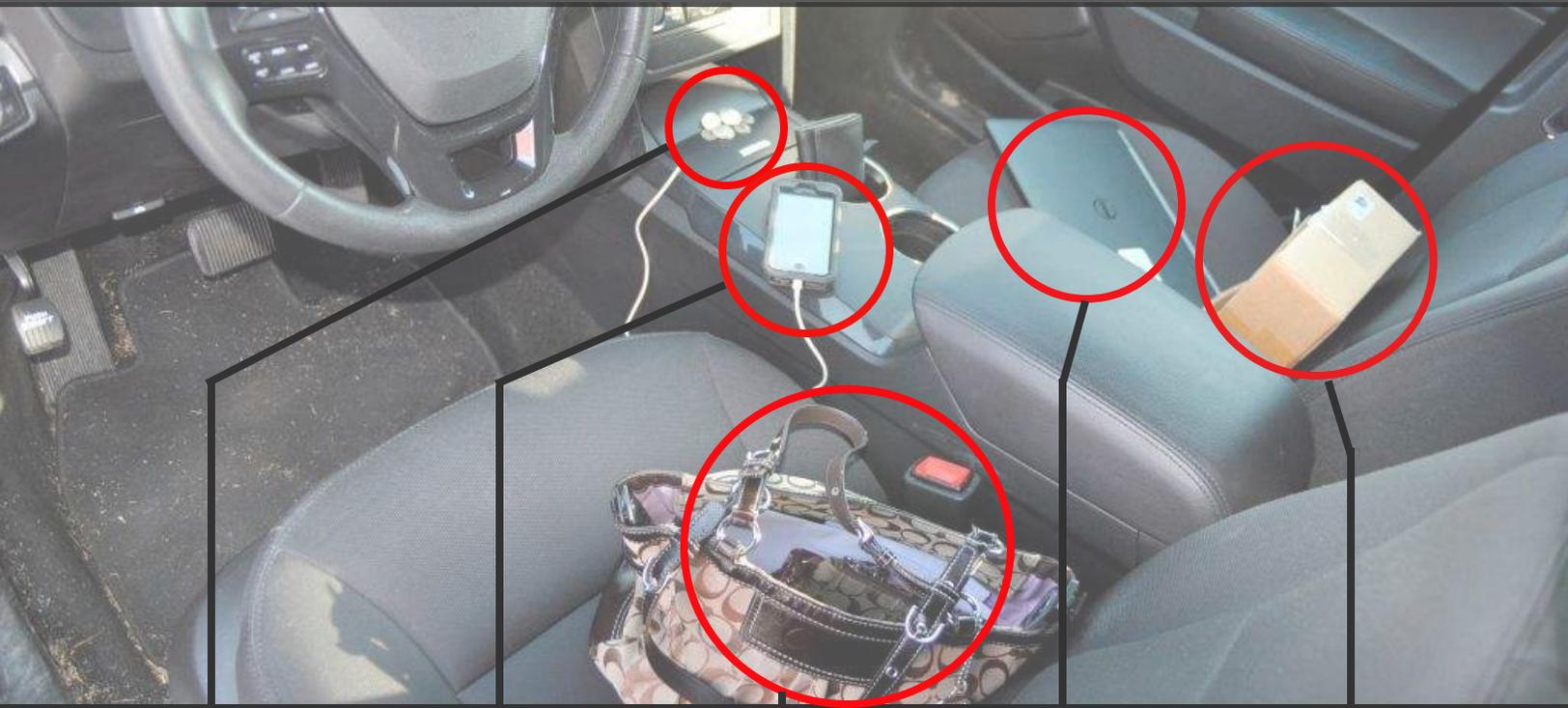


THINK LIKE A THIEF..



WHICH WOULD YOU ROB FIRST?

# AVOID CAR BREAK-INS



It takes less than a minute for a thief to break your car window & snatch a cell phone, cash, laptop, or purse out the front seat.

Think about that the next time you dash into a store, grab a cup of coffee, or the hour you spend in the gym. Think about when you're tired from a long day at work & now you're getting your kids or groceries in the house at the end of the day. Forgetting to lock your car or taking your valuables in with you could be costly.

Each year, \$1.26 billion in personal items and accessories are stolen from vehicles in about 1.85 million thefts. For every theft, experts estimate there are several break-ins and attempted break-ins.

## Car Break-In Prevention Tips

- 1. Keep your car visible** - Avoid having your car concealed by larger vehicles, fences, or foliage; thieves like to work in private. At night park in well-lit areas near people
- 2. Don't make it easy** - Keep windows and sunroofs closed & doors locked.
- 3. Hide your valuables** - Many smash-and-grab thieves act on impulse, so keep your stuff out of sight – either with you or in a locked trunk. Don't count on the glove box; thieves know to look there, & they're easy to break into. Also don't cover valuables with a jacket or towel; thieves look there too.
- 4. Hide your valuables (2)** - If you have a Truck or SUV that leaves your cargo area open, get a retractable fitted cover or strong tool box to keep shopping bags or tools hidden.
- 5. Activate your vehicle's alarm** - Don't have one? Factory-installed and theft systems are best, but a professionally-installed alarm can discourage a car break-in thief who likes to work in silence.
- 6. Take your keys with you** - If you think you have a great hiding place for a spare key, car break-in thieves know to look above the visor, in the center console, under the floor mat, in the trunk well, under bumpers, etc.
- 7. Hide your stuff before arrival** - Experienced thieves often stake out parking lots to watch for people putting items in their trunk. IF you can't take valuables with you, help prevent car break-ins by putting valuables like laptops, messenger bags, & electronic devices into your trunk before you get to the parking lot.
- 8. Hide the evidence, too** - Don't forget hide or take telltale evidence as charging cords, MP3 adapters, & navigation system windshield suction-cup mounts. Thieves know what they're looking for, so hide the electronic accessories, too.
- 9. Trust your instincts** - If you see suspicious activity, find another spot to park. If you're concerned, report your suspicions to police. You may be helping keep another person from being a victim of a car break-in or worse.
- 10. Take it one more step** - Many vehicles are broken into with the intent of stealing the vehicle itself. Visible anti-theft devices, like steering wheel locks, steering column collars, or brake pedal locks may discourage the would-be thief from breaking in and trying.