



Parking After Dark

Criminals just love the cover of darkness to attack you, your vehicle, or both. When you're parking your car and not returning to it until after dark, here are a few precautions.

Park in a well-lit and busy area, such as under a streetlight, in a lighted parking garage, or on a street with lots of traffic. Consider how lit or busy the area will be when you get back. A crowded parking garage in an office complex, for example, could be deserted by 8:00 p.m.

Park as close as possible to your destination. In a garage, park close to the parking attendants, the stairs, or the elevator. This brings you closer to help in case of a threat.

When you leave the car, tilt the passenger seat forward. This gives you a chance when you return to check the back seat to see if anyone has entered the vehicle and is waiting to attack.

Back your vehicle into a parking spot so that you are always facing out. This lets you drive away quickly if you are approached by a stranger or sense any kind of trouble.

Don't make your car an easy target. Make sure it is locked, and don't keep a spare key in an obvious place, such as under the hood.

There's no sense advertising what you have that might be worth stealing - put all valuables or parcels in the trunk.

If possible, don't go to your car alone after dark. Even if you're leaving alone, try to arrange for someone to accompany you as far as your car.

As you approach the vehicle, have your keys out of your pocket and ready. That way, you're not left fumbling with your pockets or purse while you're standing next to the car.

When approaching your parked vehicle, pay attention to the cars around you. If a nearby car has been broken into, call the police or security right away - don't go to your car. The thief could still be lurking in the shadows or behind other parked cars.

When you're safely in the car, don't let down your guard. Lock all the doors. If you have car trouble in a dark area, lock yourself in and wait for help. If a stranger offers to help, don't get out of the car - ask that person to call for assistance instead.



ADAPTED FROM INSURANCE BUREAU OF CANADA

