

Ways to protect your car or truck from being stolen

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STEERING WHEEL LOCKS

The downside is that most of these bars can be removed by hacksawing the steering wheel.

SHIFTER LOCKS

Fits over a standard or automatic gear shift.

TIRE-WHEEL LOCKS

Fit over the outside of the car wheel, making movement impossible or leading to flat tires or auto body damage.

Vehicle immobilizers Considered the most effective way to deter auto theft. The best immobilizers disable the ignition, starter and fuel systems until they are reactivated by a computer-coded key.

ALARMS

Prices range between \$200 and \$1,000 installed, and tend to include not just audible alarms but also immobilizer functions.

GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE

Some new vehicles include a global position system technology, such as GM's OnStar, that enables a stolen vehicle to be tracked.

INVISIBLE MARKINGS

Marks are placed on auto parts and can only be read under ultra-violet light. The Theft Avert system, produced by labelling giant 3M, prevents vehicles being stolen, then taken apart and resold as parts. The 3M product was used by the Vancouver Police Department during a sting operation to capture an organized criminal.

WIRELESS SYSTEM

AC Global Systems, a company based in Trail, has created a wireless remote control device that can be discreetly positioned in an undetectable location in your vehicle. This device is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is not hampered by "dark territory." The vehicle's every movement can be tracked anywhere in the world and information published in "real time". You can also set up an invisible perimeter that will alert you if your vehicle goes out of a permitted boundary.