



Protect Your Vehicle from Gas Theft

As the price of fuel goes up, so does the likelihood of opportunistic thieves stealing gasoline. By remembering a few simple steps, you can reduce the probability of your vehicle being targeted by one of these thieves.

- Always park in well-lighted and well-traveled locations where passersby in the community can easily see your car. Thieves like to work in areas where they have privacy and will not be seen. Avoid parking in dark, isolated areas.
- At home consider parking in a locked garage or in a driveway whenever possible. If you must park on the street, position your vehicle under street lighting and in front of your house.
- Avoid parking in public places for extended periods of time. For example, rather than leaving your car at the airport parking lot for a week, consider leaving it with a friend or neighbor and getting a ride to the airport.
- Whenever possible, park your vehicle so that the fuel door can be easily seen from the main road. Avoid parking so that the fuel door is facing heavy landscaping or isolated corners of a parking lot. Keeping this in mind will make it much more difficult for thieves to work without being seen.
- Consider installing a locking gas cap –even if your fuel door locks. Thieves can easily break-in to your vehicle and unlock a fuel door.
- Remember to call 9-1-1 if you see suspicious behavior (e.g. someone putting a siphon into a gas tank or acting out of the ordinary around parked cars).



Vehicle prowling and auto theft continue to be a problem in the Puget Sound region. Always lock your doors and take your keys with you. Do not leave your vehicle running unattended. A sizeable number of running vehicles are stolen each year. Always take personal property with you each time you leave your vehicle. If you must leave some of your belongings behind, lock them in your trunk or place them out of sight. By working together, we can reduce auto theft and make the community a safer place to live and play!

For more information on how to protect your vehicle, contact the City of Woodinville Crime Prevention Coordinator at 425.877.2284.