



AND LOOK

From the desk of
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SECURITY TIPS FOR PARKING LOTS AND STRUCTURES

Theft is the most common crime affecting parking lots today. Hundreds of cars parked in one area can be a haven for thieves. It's hard to spot a parking lot thief because they blend in with everyone else. These chameleons look for vehicles parked in dark areas, have valuables left in plain view, or have doors or windows left open.

Thieves prey on employee parking lots as employees may not be returning to their vehicles until the end of the day. Vehicles with items left in the open are easy targets for thieves. **Most parking lot and parking garage crimes are crimes of opportunity.** Following these tips may help you avoid being a victim.

Tips to Help Deter Parking Lot Crime

- Park your vehicle in an employee-designated area.
- Never leave your car running and unattended, for any reason.
- Never leave your keys in the car or ignition.
- Always roll up your windows and lock the car door.
- If you have anything of value with you, put it in the trunk out of sight **before** arriving at the medical center.
- Install a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Commonly called clubs, collars, or J-bars, these devices can act as a highly visible physical deterrent, if installed properly.
- Don't leave belongings such as cellular phones or mobile GPS systems, CDs, money, parking cards, clothing, laptops or cameras, gifts, etc. in your vehicle where they are visible. Before walking away from your vehicle, look through the windows and see if there is anything inviting for a thief to take.
- Have the keys to your vehicle in your hand before you leave your work area.
- **Call the Security Department for an escort to your vehicle at night; or**
- **Go to your vehicles in groups. Wait for each other to start vehicle engines before leaving.**
- **If anyone looks lost or out of place, approach them and ask if you could help them. If you feel uneasy after speaking with them, call Security.**
- **For emergencies, call Security.**
 - **In Hayward and Union City - (510) 784-4639. In Fremont - (510) 248-3198. Place these numbers in your cell phone.**
 - **In Hayward parking garages, you may use the Direct Dial phones, which are located near elevators and staircases in each garage. Look for the yellow boxes with red buttons.**