

Help prevent the theft of your company vehicles.



Your commercial fleet is an integral part of your business, so it's imperative to protect your vehicles from being stolen or burglarized. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, an auto theft occurs about every 33 seconds in the U.S. That's a total of 1 million vehicles each year that wind up in the hands of thieves at a cost of nearly \$6.4 billion.¹

In addition to the cost of replacing a stolen vehicle, hidden costs can include loss of productivity, decreased revenue, car rental fees, cost of replacing equipment and valuables, and higher insurance premiums.

Simple tips for all drivers to remember.

An unlocked car or truck with a key in the ignition is an open invitation to any thief, regardless of which anti-theft device you use. Here are some common-sense tips to share with your company's drivers:

- Never leave a vehicle running unattended
- Remove keys from the ignition and don't hide them inside a vehicle when it's not in use
- Store any keys left in your workplace in a lockbox or safe
- Lock all doors and windows any time you step away from the vehicle
- Secure all equipment and valuables or take them with you
- Park your vehicle in well-lit and/or easily visible areas

In addition, if vehicles are stored at your business location, keep them in a locked garage and/or consider installing a perimeter fence.

Tools to help stop vehicle theft before it can start.

Thieves can bypass the ignition by hot-wiring a vehicle, but installing a vehicle-immobilizer system may help stop them from driving off with your property. Some devices disable vital automotive functions, preventing the engine from being started until a hidden switch is activated. Others allow the vehicle to run for a short time and then stall, prompting the thief to abandon it. Immobilizing devices include:

- Fuse cut-offs
- Starter, ignition and fuel disablers
- Kill switches
- Smart keys with computer chips that must be present to start the engine

Coach your drivers to take their keys and lock their vehicle, every time.



¹ "Vehicle Theft," National Insurance Crime Bureau, nicb.org/theft_and_fraud_awareness/brochures (downloaded Sept. 20, 2017).



Anti-theft devices as an additional deterrent.

A number of anti-theft devices can deter or discourage a thief and alert others of forced entry into your vehicles. Consider installing one or more of the following visible or audible anti-theft devices:

- Audible alarms
- Theft deterrent decals
- Steering wheel locks
- Steering column collars
- Identification markers in or on the vehicle
- Window etching
- Brake locks
- Laminated glass
- Wheel locks

GPS tracking systems for better fleet safety management.

In addition to the preventive measures described above, one more line of defense is a vehicle tracking system. A GPS tracking system can provide for emergency or distress aid, as well as help in recovering a stolen vehicle. A transmitter in the car sends a signal to a satellite which relays it to a monitoring station, thus pinpointing the location of the car. This information can then be provided to local police.

Install one or more anti-theft devices for an extra measure of security.

Providing solutions to help our members manage risk.®



For your risk management and safety needs, contact Nationwide Loss Control Services: 1-866-808-2101 or LCS@nationwide.com.