



Expect the Best

Safety Tips: *PARK AND RIDE LOTS*

The primary duty of a law enforcement agency is to prevent crime. Preventing people from being victimized by criminals is the first priority of the Sheriff's Office in Milwaukee County. In keeping with this objective, we are warning users of the park and ride lots to use common sense precautions to reduce their chance of being victimized.

Thieves know that users of park and ride lots will be gone from their cars for lengthy amounts of time. Thefts from parked vehicles are crimes of opportunity. Simply walking between cars and looking through the windows makes it easy for them to determine what they can steal. Items that can safely be left in plain view while parked in front of your home, your driveway overnight, or on a street with vehicular or pedestrian traffic around, cannot be left unattended at a park and ride lot.

The most popular items for thieves today are portable GPS mapping systems that sit on top of the dashboard or mount on the windshield. Other popular items that thieves are in search of are laptop computers, satellite radios, cameras, cell phones, purses, wallets, radar detectors, iPods, CDs and money, including currency and coins left in center consoles. These items can quickly be snatched from a car and easily sold on the street for cash.

Here are a few Park and Ride safety tips:

- **Don't make it easy for the thief**
 - Always lock an unattended car
 - Keep windows and sunroofs closed
 - Approximately one-fourth of thefts from vehicles are from unlocked cars (according to nationwide.com)
- **Hide your valuables**
 - Never leave purses, cell phones or other valuables in your car. Keep your items out of sight
 - If you choose to put your items in the trunk of your car, do so before you arrive in the parking lot
- **Check for signs of illegal entry before you get into your car**
- **Report all break-ins, theft or damage to vehicles that occur on Park and Ride lots**
- **Report any suspicious activity on or around Park and Ride lots.**