

AUTOMOBILE SAFETY

1. **Always have your keys out and ready before leaving a building to approach your car.** Fumbling through your purse for keys after you've reached your car provides criminals an excellent opportunity to sneak up on you.
2. **Look around and in your car before entering.** If you are concerned for any reason, walk past your car instead of getting into it.
3. **Use a two-piece key ring with your door/ignition key separate from your other important keys.** Give parking valets or mechanics your car keys only. Supplying your entire set of keys creates an opportunity for duplicates to be made.
4. **If your vehicle has tinted windows, use the reflection to scan the area on either side and behind you.** By being alert to your surroundings you could avoid a potentially dangerous situation.
5. **Lock your car immediately after entering the vehicle.** Make this your first action, even before putting your keys in the ignition.
6. **Check your surroundings before you get out of your car.** If something or someone strikes you as out of place or threatening, drive away.
7. **If you are involved in an accident, stay with your car until the police arrive.** In minor accidents where the other driver suggests you exchange insurance information, simply hold your drivers' license and insurance information against the window.
8. **Get a cell phone.** Using a cellular phone is an effective means of keeping help close at hand during accidents, breakdowns, or other roadside emergencies.
9. **If you are accosted in a parking lot, away from your own vehicle, consider rolling underneath a nearby vehicle.** It is difficult to force anyone from under a car.
10. **Make a practice of filling up your vehicle when your gas tank is about half empty.** Never let it go so low that you are forced to stop for fuel, particularly at night in an unfamiliar area.
11. **Lock your car and take your keys when you get out to pump gas.** Leaving the door unlocked and the keys in the ignition invites a carjacking.
12. **NEVER PICK UP HITCHHIKERS.** It is never safe to have a stranger in your car.