



# Smash and grab car break-ins

We kicked off the [#LockitorLoseit](#) / [#9pmRoutine](#) to bring awareness to residential car break-in prevention. Generally, this type of thief won't break a window to get in. They will walk down the street, lifting up on car door handles to see which ones have been left open.

Now, let's cover another type of break-in, the "smash and grab."

Popular targets for the smash and grab include parking lots for gyms, parks, trails, swimming pools, retail areas, and similar places where people might leave valuables behind in the vehicle. These thieves typically aren't masterminds who craft clever schemes to swipe your stuff. They see something they like, so they break in and take it: purse, wallet, cash, electronics, medication, shopping bags, brief case, backpack, etc. And, if you don't take your firearm with you, don't leave it unsecured under the seat, in the console, or in the glove box. Consider a small gun vault or safe for secure storage.

Do your best to deter and discourage this type of crime. Make it more difficult:

- Don't leave items in plain view. If you don't take it with you, hide it as best you can.
- Always lock the doors, roll up the windows, and make sure the alarm is activated.
- Park in well-lit areas. Preferably a place with high visibility and pedestrian traffic.
- Consider after-market measures, like a steering wheel lock. This tells a thief that you're taking extra steps to protect your stuff.
- While in a parking area, be on the lookout for people that might be "casing" the lot. Call us if you see suspicious activity. 911 or 205-822-5300.

[#hooverpd](#) [#crimeprevention](#) [#communityengagement](#) [#communitypolicing](#) [#callusifyouneedus](#)

