

What steps can I take to prevent becoming a victim?

Remove visible items from your vehicle

If you leave visible items in your vehicle, you are a target. Be aware that someone maybe watching you as you place your wallet, purse, cell phone, etc. under the seat of your vehicle. Take these items with you.

Lock up

An unlocked vehicle is an open invitation to a thief. Lock your vehicle and take the keys with you.

Close all windows—professional thieves have the tools necessary to open a car even with the minimum opening of a window

Be sure vent windows or wind-wing windows and sunroofs are shut tight and locked. These are easy means of entry for thieves

Secure your car even if you're making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store etc.



What to do if you become a victim

Do not touch your vehicle before it can be processed for possible evidence.

Notify the police department as soon as possible.

Provide the police department with a detailed list of any missing items including make, model, serial number, color, and value.

Report any and all break ins to your vehicle even if there is no loss, evidence, or suspect information. Police reports help analyze crime patterns and develop strategies for reducing future incidents.



A Crime of Opportunity



River Bend Police Department
45 Shoreline Drive
New Bern, NC 28562

Emergency—911

Non-emergency—(252)638-1108

The River Bend Police Department is taking this opportunity to educate the public about vehicle break-ins.



Vehicle break-ins are most often crimes of opportunity.

Carelessness is often the cause of vehicles being broken into.

You can minimize your chance of being a victim by taking away the opportunity.

What items are most commonly stolen from vehicles?

- Wallets, purses, etc.
- Cell phones and chargers
- GPS devices
- Laptops
- Cash, jewelry, mail, keys
- Briefcases
- CDs
- Garage door openers
- Gym Bags
- Tools
- Stereos and faceplates
- Sports equipment
- Yeti style coolers
- Firearms



How can a vehicle break-in lead to a residential burglary?

Garage door openers, vehicle registrations, and mail left in vehicles can lead to identity theft or residential burglary.

Vehicle registrations—if possible keep these on your person. It has your home address on it which if taken could lead to your home being broken into. *Note* The registration is required to be in the vehicle when in operation.

Mail—do not leave incoming or outgoing mail in your vehicle. Like your vehicle registration, these items have your home address on them which could lead to your home being broken into.

Garage door opener—if possible do not leave these in your vehicle.

Keys—never leave keys in your vehicle.