

Look For The Clues Of Auto Theft

You also can help prevent auto theft by being alert when you're buying a car. It's sort of like being a private detective. So if you're in the market for a vehicle, check out the "Used Car Buying Guide" page at www.heatreward.com/usedcars/ and look for these clues:

- Late model cars with fresh paint.
- Sellers without manufacturer-made keys.
- Asking prices way below those of similar models.

And remember, if you purchase a vehicle that is later identified as being stolen, in many cases you will not be reimbursed. This is especially true if the seller's identity is unknown.

Protect Yourself

After you've purchased your car, common sense will go a long way to keep it from being stolen. Always:

- **Lock your doors** when you're driving, in addition to when you park the vehicle.
- **Never get out** of your car when you're struck from behind. It could be carjacking.
- **After dark**, park your car in a well-lighted area, and whenever possible walk to your car with a friend.
- **Be familiar** with your surroundings. If you feel threatened or need emergency assistance, dial #77 or 911 on your cellular phone.

By remembering these tips and reporting suspected criminal activity, you'll be helping yourself, **H.E.A.T.** and drivers throughout Virginia. On behalf of **H.E.A.T.**, we wish you many years of safe driving.



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*In partnership with law enforcement agencies
throughout Virginia*

www.heatreward.com

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**MORE THAN HALF
OF AUTO
THEFTS
ARE COMMITTED BY
TEENAGERS.
WHAT ARE
YOU
GOING TO DO
ABOUT IT?**



Congratulations! You're now a licensed driver in Virginia. You've got your wheels. You've got the ugly mug shot of yourself on a photo ID. You've got enough money for a few gallons of gas and there's a long stretch of highway ahead of you.

But before you take that road, remember that you've got some new responsibilities when you operate a motor vehicle. And one of the most important is helping to fight auto theft.

All Drivers Are Victims Of Auto Theft

Did you know that auto theft costs Virginians more than \$100 million each year? It's true. And though it may not seem too important to you now, IT IS! Because that's money that will come out of *your* pocket through increased insurance premiums.

But, of course, monetary loss can't begin to describe the emotional and physical price that's paid by victims of auto theft. Car thieves place lives in danger or cause actual bodily harm. And when it's your wheels that are stolen, you'll be riding the shoe leather express.

As a wise man once said, "It's not just your car, it's your freedom!"

H.E.A.T. Is Putting The Brakes On Auto Theft

In Virginia, we're fighting back with an aggressive law enforcement program called **Help Eliminate Auto Theft**, or **H.E.A.T.** And we're counting on you to do your part. Being aware of the problem is the biggest contribution you can make to discourage auto theft.

These Are The Facts

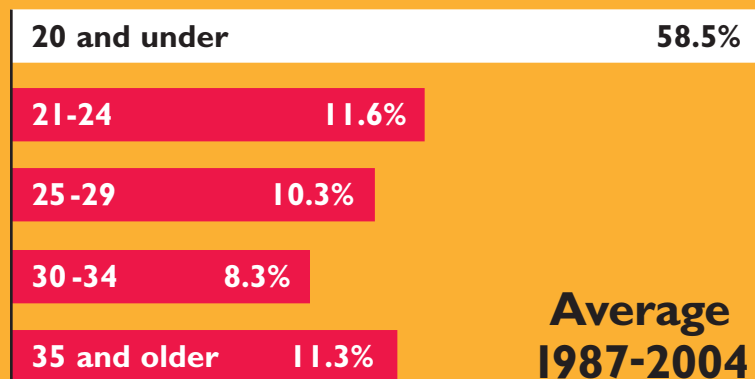
Did you know that more than half of the people arrested for auto theft in Virginia are age 20 and under? And many young auto thieves say they steal cars and other vehicles to impress their friends?

So, let your friends know that you're not impressed by criminals. Walk away from people who persuade you to participate in a crime that could haunt you for years.

Auto Thieves Lose More Than Just Respect

We all know that crime is wrong, but did you know that auto theft is a felony in Virginia? If you steal an automobile, you can get jail time for a felony conviction plus a judge has the authority to suspend your license for an indefinite period of time until the age of 21. Do you really want to rely on a parent to chauffeur you around on the weekends?

CAR THEFTS BY AGE GROUP (Arrests)



You Could Get Up To \$25,000 For Reporting The Theft Of Vehicles Or Their Parts

At **H.E.A.T.**, we suggest you report criminal activity as soon as possible. In addition to doing a favor for yourself and your fellow drivers, you could collect a **H.E.A.T.** reward of up to \$25,000. That's enough to buy yourself a nice car! Or a year of college!

To be eligible for a reward, all you have to do is provide information that leads to an arrest for auto theft-related offenses, including the theft of vehicles (over 18,000 vehicles are stolen in Virginia each year) or their parts (an excess of 25,000 thefts of vehicle parts are reported annually).

Call 1-800-947-HEAT

The number to call is 1-800-947-HEAT(4328). You may remain anonymous when providing information and still collect a reward.