

Safety Tips from the Philadelphia Police Department

HOW TO BE SAFE WHEN YOU'RE IN THE CAR

Stay alert when using your car, too. Don't assume you're an impossible target simply because you're on wheels. Here are 10 "rules of the Road" for crime prevention.

1. Don't travel alone at night if you are having car trouble or are low on gas.
2. Keep the doors locked and windows rolled up whenever possible.
3. Be alert at stop signs and traffic lights. These are favorite places for assailants to try to jump in.
4. If someone tries to break into your car, pull away if possible, but by all means honk the horn. Short bursts attract the most attention.
5. If you think you're being followed, don't go home. Head for a police station, fire station, hospital emergency entrance or other safe public place where you can call for help.
6. Park in lots that offer good security, are well lit and are close to your destination.
7. Don't leave valuables such as wrapped packages or cameras in plain sight in a locked car. Lock them in the trunk.
8. Before getting back into your car, check the back seat for someone hiding there.
9. Have your keys ready so you don't fumble.
10. If your car breaks down:
 - Get off the road enough so you will not be hit by on coming traffic.
 - Turn on emergency flashers and raise the hood.
 - Tie a handkerchief to the antenna or door handle.
 - Lock your doors and wait for help to come
 - If you have a CB radio use it to call for help.
 - If you are on the expressway where call boxes are available, go call for help, then return to your car, lock the doors and wait.
 - If a motorist stops, ask him to send help, but don't get out of the car.
 - Don't get out of the car and try to walk or hitch a ride to a service station.