

February 2012

## HOW TO BUY A CAR AND KEEP IT

### SECURITY TIPS FOR CAR BUYERS

Like hundreds of thousands of other people each year, you may opt to buy a second hand car. These are sold through dealers, newspapers, specialist magazines or perhaps an advert in the window of the local shop. However, every so often, a user is persuaded to buy a vehicle which turns out to be stolen. Not only does this cause inconvenience and upset, but the buyer can lose a lot of money with little hope of getting any back.

While the majority of used car sales are made in good faith, it is always worth taking the simple precautions outlined. Not only will you be saving yourself a lot of trouble, but you will be closing another avenue for a car thief.

If you buy a used car from a reputable dealer, and it turns out to be stolen, there should be no problem obtaining a full refund, especially if he or she is a member of the Retail Motor Industry Federation.

If you buy a car through a 'small ad', for instance in a newspaper, you should make the following checks:

# 1 Be cautious about adverts which specify times to phone. Sometimes these phone numbers turn out to be those of a public call box or the houses of friends or acquaintances who are not involved in the sale.

# 2 When you respond to an advert, don't specify the vehicle that you are interested in. Instead, say, 'I'm calling about the car that you advertised for sale.' The person answering will then have to be honest about whether he has more than one car to sell, in which case he may be a dealer.

# 3 Never allow the seller to bring the vehicle to you. Always insist on going to where the vehicle is on sale. Anyone who is less than honest will be put off by this approach.

# 4 Before you go, make sure that you know how to find the chassis and engine numbers on the vehicle that you are interested in.

# 5 When you arrive at the seller's house, try to find an excuse to go inside, to establish in your own mind whether the person actually lives there.

**SERVICE-PRIDE-INTEGRITY**



**GARDEN CITY POLICE**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

**CITY DEPARTMENT  
PHONE NUMBERS**

**EMERGENCY-911**

**POLICE 793-1700**

**DETECTIVE BUREAU 793-1710**

**CITY HALL 793-1600**

**21ST DIST. COURT 793-1680**

**BUILDING DEPT. 793-1650**

**CITY CLERK 793-1620**

**LIBRARY 793-1830**

**MAPLEWOOD CTR. 793-1850**

**PARKS & REC. 793-1880**

# 6 Look out for signs of casual car dealing, for instance if the person selling the car to you has other vehicles lying around in various states of repair, or there are lots of spare parts scattered around the garage or drive.

# 7 Remember when you examine the vehicle to check that the chassis and engine numbers on the documents.

# 8 Ask to see the registration document. In particular, check how long the car has been in the owner's possession. Be cautious if it has only been in his particular ownership for a short time. If the owner does not have the registration document, ask how long he has had the vehicle. If he has owned it for some time, ask why there is no registration document.

# 9 Check the registration document for watermarks, typeface, spelling mistakes and overtyping. Irregularities could indicate a forgery.

# 10 If you buy through auctions, take advantage of any indemnity clauses which will protect you in the event of your buying a stolen vehicle. It will cost a nominal sum, but could save you a lot of money, time and embarrassment.

# 11 Don't forget to look out for the obvious, for instance, a vehicle that has the badges and trimmings of a top of the range model, but does not have the level of performance to match.

# 12 If you buy from an advertisement, keep a copy of it. Also, try to keep a note of what the person selling the car tells you.

**HAVING BOUGHT YOUR SECOND HAND CAR...**

If you buy a used car it may not have all the security features of a newer model, but this does not mean it is less tempting to a thief, so it is worth protecting your purchase.

- \* If the locks are worn, replace them.
- \* Have the windows etched with the registration number, or vehicle identification number.
- \* Fit an alarm, 'immobiliser' or cut-out device.
- \* Alarms should conform to BS 6803.
- \* Fit a lockable fuel cap, and lockable wheel nuts.

**And remember to always lock your car doors, and keep anything which looks valuable out of sight**

<p><b>NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS</b>  <b>Remember Neighborhood Watch Meetings about beginning soon. Unless otherwise indicated, the meetings will continue on the same months as</b></p>	<p><b>before and on the first Wednesday of that month. The months again are: March, May, October and December. All meetings are now held at the Garden City Police Department starting</b></p>	<p><b>at 7pm. If you have any topics of interest or questions, please call me in the Detective Bureau at 734-793-1715. Thank you, D/Sgt. Brian Aure'</b></p>
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**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK / CITY CRIME STATS**

January 2012 Cases Reported

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Arson 0</b>                   | <b>Robbery 1</b>         |
| <b>Breaking &amp; Entering 9</b> | <b>Public Peace 2</b>    |
| <b>Larceny 19</b>                | <b>Fraud 10</b>          |
| <b>Stolen Vehicles 4</b>         | <b>Drugs 5</b>           |
| <b>Assaults 21</b>               | <b>Property Damage 9</b> |
| <b>Murder 0</b>                  |                          |