



## **Four Layers of Protection Fact Sheet**

Vehicle theft is a serious, ongoing phenomenon that has a direct negative impact on the public in Ontario. According to statistics from the Provincial Auto Theft Team (PATT) of the Ontario Provincial Police, 52,000 cars are stolen per year in Ontario at a cost of \$450 to \$500 million, which equals \$48 per insurance holder.

Ontarians have many bad habits that make it easier for a thief to steal their car. Thieves are always on the lookout for “easy mark” cars to steal. Below are the 4 layers of protection against vehicle theft which are from the Keeping Track booklet that Boomerang Tracking launched recently and available at [www.boomerangtracking.com](http://www.boomerangtracking.com).

### **The Four Layers of Protection**

#### **Layer #1: Common sense**

- Common sense measures to avoid tempting thieves:
  - Don't leave your keys in the ignition, even if the vehicle is locked.
  - Never leave valuable items visible in your car.
  - Every time you get out from behind the wheel of your vehicle, even if it's for a mere 30 seconds, turn off the engine and remove the keys from the ignition.
  - If possible, park your vehicle in a well-lit area where there are many people passing or milling about.
  - Park in a garage if you have one and keep your vehicle locked.
  - Stay alert to the vehicles and people around you while driving, particularly when stopped at an intersection.
  - Try to avoid leaving your keys with parking attendants and other strangers.
  - If your choice is between an attended and an unattended parking lot, choose the former.

## **Layer #2: Theft protection products**

- Devices, which alert thieves that the vehicle is protected include
  - Audible alarms
  - Steering column collars (aka “The Club”)
  - Steering wheel/brake pedal locks
  - Brake and/or wheel locks
  - Tire locks/deflators
  - Theft-deterrent decals
  - Identification markers in or on vehicle
  - Window etching
  - Laminated glass

## **Layer #3: Immobilizing devices**

- Hotwiring is a technique used to bypass vehicle’s ignition. You can try to keep thieves from being successful with immobilizing products, such as:
  - Smart keys
  - Fuse cut-offs
  - Kill switches
  - Starter, ignition and fuel disablers

## **Layer #4: Vehicle recovery system**

Designed to help locate and recover a vehicle quickly if stolen, before it can be stripped for parts or shipped to another province or country.

Unlike GPS-based systems, a vehicle recovery system is capable of successfully tracking stolen vehicle within 3 feet of its actual location, often in about an hour. They also can track stolen assets underground and even inside shipping containers. And because the recovery device is hidden, it’s virtually impossible to detect or disable.

**What’s important to remember is that to have the ultimate security and peace of mind, the population needs to take a “multilayered” approach against the problem of vehicle theft.**

## **Boomerang's Contribution**

- Boomerang Tracking launches Auto Theft Awareness Month in November to educate the public on protecting their vehicles.
  
- Boomerang Tracking has launched a YouTube channel to better educate drivers. The video entitled "Auto Theft Prevention 101" clip presents these four methods to prevent theft and is viewable at <http://www.youtube.com/boomerangtracking>
  
- Experts on vehicle theft protection are available for interviews.