Why Car-Wheel Theft Happens: Easy to steal, not trackable, easy to sell and the money is good. Aftermarket tires are some of the most popular automotive accessories—and the more expensive the vehicle, the more expensive the wheels. Depending on the model, a set of stolen wheels might go for $1,000–$5,000 or more—about half the cost of retail.

If possible, please continue to park in areas where there is more traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, and where there are security cameras. If you’re parking somewhere overnight, make sure your car is visible. Remove all valuables from your vehicle – even loose change.

How to Help Prevent Car-Wheel Theft

- **Install an Alarm with a Sensor** – An alarm triggered by sensitive motion sensors is a great deterrent. Unlike standard car alarms, which alert you when your car has been broken into, alarms with sensors can detect a tilt or angle change if thieves try to jack up your vehicle. Some alarms will run $700+ which is a lot of money, but less than what you’d spend on a new set of wheels. It will also help with your insurance premium.

- **Turn Your Wheels** - When you park your car, turn the wheels to a 45-degree angle. This will make it difficult for a thief to get the lug nuts off, because the inner fender will likely be in the way.

- **Back into a Space Passenger Door to Passenger Door** and create little space between the two vehicles. This is something you want to do with a co-worker when you know there are zero passengers using the vehicle during the work day.

- **Park Close to The Curb** – When parallel parking on the street, get as close as you can to the curb. The closer your vehicle is, the more difficult it will be for a thief to put a jack underneath your car. While the street side of your car will still be exposed, at least the tires on the curb side of your car will be better protected.

- **Buy Lug Nut Locks** – this is one way to stop a thief who is new to the business. However, someone who is making a living out of stealing vehicle tires can get around this obstacle.

- **Lock your wheels with metal boots**—which cover the lug nuts like an earmuff—may sound a little extreme. After all, it takes anywhere from 5 to 20 minutes to attach each one and may require special tools. But, if you need to leave your car outside while you’re away for a long time, boots will certainly be a deterrent. They cost about $70 a pair (you’ll need two pair) and can be found online and in auto stores.