

auto crime

Auto thieves look for an easy target. If you own an older vehicle, it's at high risk of being stolen or broken into. Older vehicles often don't have an effective anti-theft device and are easy to steal. That's why the average age of a stolen vehicle in B.C. is about 11 years old.

All new cars, vans, light trucks and SUVs built in Canada must be equipped with anti-theft engine immobilizers as of Sept. 1, 2007.

Protecting yourself against auto crime

You can do your part to keep your vehicle safe by using an anti-theft device and removing any packages or personal property from sight.

- Electronic immobilizers are the best protection. They're hard wired into vehicles and shut down the starter, ignition and/or fuel system. They require a special key or electronic device to start the engine, and usually attach to your key ring.
- Car alarms deter break-ins by drawing attention to would-be thieves with sirens and beeps, but they can't stop thieves from stealing your car.
- Steering wheel locks are a good visual deterrent for auto thieves, but offer a lower form of protection.

If your vehicle is at high risk consider layering your protection and using a steering wheel lock in combination with an immobilizer and other visual deterrents.

More tips:

- Always close your windows and lock your doors.
- Take your possessions with you. Keep your garage door remote out of sight.
- Keep your spare keys in your wallet and ensure your valet key is removed from your vehicle.
- In parkades, avoid parking in areas with poor visibility where thieves will feel safe when breaking into your vehicle. Elsewhere, park in well-lit areas near pedestrian traffic.
- After opening an automatic gate to underground parking, watch out for thieves waiting to slip inside. Wait for the gate to close behind you.
- Engrave your stereo and other on-board valuables with your driver's licence number.

top 10 stolen vehicles in B.C. in 2008

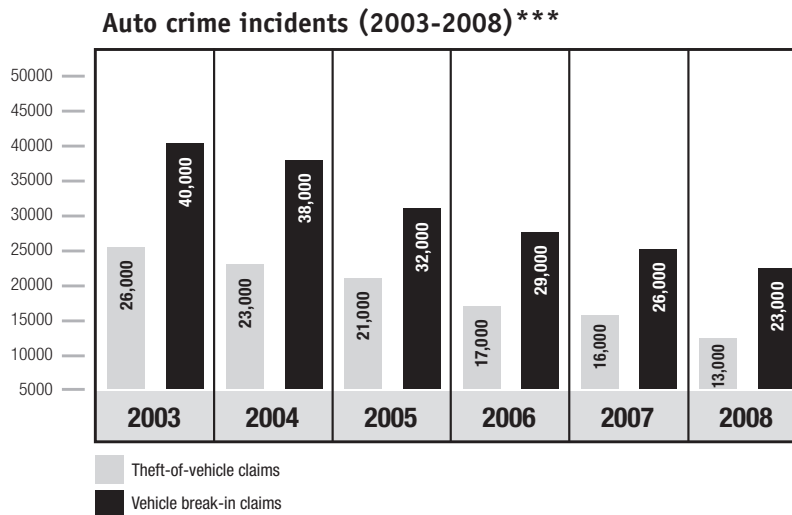
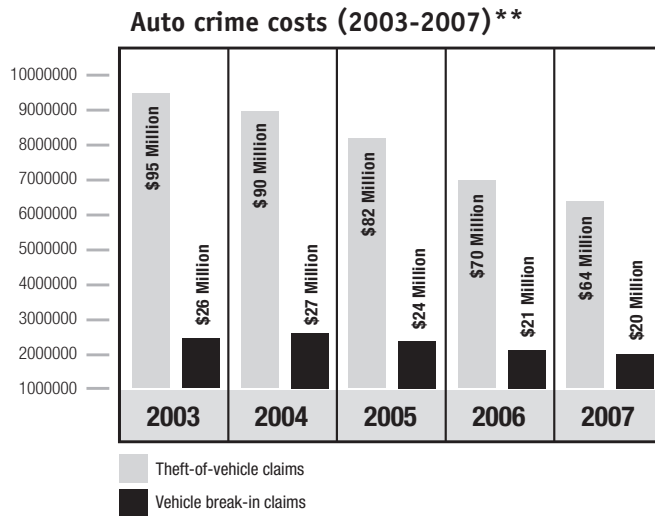
Rank	Make	Model	Model Years in Order of Highest Risk
1.	Ford	F-Series*	04, 05, 03, 06, 99
2.	Honda	Civic	93, 95, 97, 91, 00
3.	Chrysler (Dodge/Plymouth)	Caravan/Voyager**	95, 94, 92
4.	Honda	Accord	90, 92, 91, 93, 94
5.	Jeep	Cherokee***	93, 95, 94, 92, 96
6.	Nissan	Pathfinder	93, 95, 92, 91, 90
7.	Dodge	Ram	98, 94, 97, 01, 96
8.	Dodge	Dakota	96, 05, 94, 06, 04
9.	Chrysler (Dodge/Plymouth)	Neon	95, 98, 96, 97
10.	Acura	Integra	90, 92, 91, 95, 93

* Includes F150/F250/F350 ** Includes Grand Caravan/Grand Voyager *** Includes Grand Cherokee

Trends

2003-2008 auto crime incidents in B.C.*

- Theft-of-vehicle claims have declined 47 per cent from 2003 to 2008.
- Theft-of-vehicle claims have declined 16 per cent from 2007 to 2008.
- Vehicle break-in claims have declined 44 per cent from 2003 to 2008.
- Vehicle break-in claims have declined 12 per cent from 2007 to 2008.



*Note: Numbers are rounded but percentages are based on unrounded numbers.

**Payment amounts by year. 2008 costs are unavailable as claims have yet to settle.

*** Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand. 2008 numbers will continue to settle.



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