



City of Takoma Park

## **Takoma Park Police Department**

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### **Do Not Leave Your Car Running Unattended in Cold Weather**

Leaving your car running unattended poses a significant risk of theft, and it's important to prioritize safety by breaking this habit. While the convenience of having a warm car ready for your drive is appealing, it also creates an opportunity for criminals to strike. Criminals may observe neighborhoods, targeting individuals who leave their cars running while briefly going inside.

Parents, especially at daycares and schools, should be cautious not to leave their cars running when dropping off or picking up children. The rush to get kids inside may lead to overlooking the security of the vehicle. Car theft is a serious matter, and the ease with which a running, unattended car can be taken makes it a prime target for criminals.

Breaking the habit of leaving your car running unattended is crucial for personal safety. Criminals choose targets that provide them with the best opportunity for a quick and undetected crime. The more obstacles and time they encounter, the higher the likelihood of being caught. By maintaining good safety habits and avoiding the unnecessary risk of leaving your car running, you contribute to reducing the chances of becoming a victim of car theft.

Prioritize safety and protect your belongings by being vigilant and breaking the habit of leaving your car unattended while running.