



# Larcenies

## Larcenies from Buildings

Office buildings should develop a comprehensive **security policy** involving all employees. The policy should include a prohibition against leaving expensive equipment—particularly **laptop computers**—unattended. Employees should be encouraged to question suspicious or unfamiliar people, or to report them to the security department.

Don't leave expensive personal property in **health club lockers**. A better solution is a "fanny pack" or other strap-on carrier that you can keep with you at all times.

Retail establishments should provide individual **lockers**, with locks, for employee property. Leaving it behind the counter or in a "back room" is an invitation for theft.

Take extreme care of your personal property while **shopping** and **dining**. Keep it in sight, and never leave it unattended, not even for a minute.

**Report** all thefts, no matter how minor, to the police department. Greater reporting will allow us to identify and attack patterns and series of crime.

## Larcenies from Motor Vehicles

The best and really only way to prevent larcenies from motor vehicles is **never to leave valuables in your car unattended**—particularly electronic goods such as cellular telephones and laptop computers. Preventing the theft of car radios is more difficult; some car stereo manufacturers make detachable face plates or stereos that pull easily from the dashboard, allowing you to take it with you or lock it in the trunk.

Parking your car in a **driveway** or lot rather than on the street provides some minimal deterrent.

## Larcenies of Bicycles

The facts are grim: **no lock** will stop a determined bicycle thief. However, using a lock is better than not using a lock, and you can maximize the protection a lock provides by:

Using a steel **"U" lock** rather than a cable lock

Locking the **frame** of the bicycle rather than the tire

Locking your bike at a bicycle **rack**

Removing an essential **part** of the bicycle, such as the seat or one of the wheels, and taking it with you provides some protection against theft.

*Don't* assume your bicycle is safe because it is in your **yard**, on your **porch**, or in your apartment **hallway**. Bikes should be locked in a secured area, such as a garage or shed.