



## ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Larceny of GPS Systems



### WHY ARE THEY SO ATTRACTIVE TO CRIMINALS AND ARE ANY SYSTEMS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THEFT THAN OTHERS?

Satellite Navigation systems can be “pre-installed” units fitted into vehicles during the manufacturing process or small portable units that can be purchased separately and added to your vehicle.

These portable units are easily installed with no complicated wiring procedures. All that is required is to install a “cradle” in which the unit sits pasted to the front windshield by a suction cup and away you go.

It is this type of unit that is attractive for a thief. The units are small, portable and highly desirable. A thief will have no trouble passing them on for a profit.

### WHAT CAN MOTORISTS DO TO DETER THIEVES FROM STEALING THEIR GPS SYSTEMS?

Do not leave anything on display that could tempt a thief – remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply put the unit in the glove box or under your seat, thieves will quickly find it.

Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup.

Do not leave any other valuables in your vehicles (i.e. laptop computers, camera, satellite radio, cell phone, etc.)

Lock all doors and close windows when you leave your car, even if it is only for a short while. This includes filling up at the gas station.

Look for a parking space in a well lit, busy place.

Purchase a cradle that mounts on the dash vents like the one pictured below.



For further information contact the Alexandria Police Department's  
Crime Prevention Unit at 703.838.4520