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# Auto Dealer Security

Thefts from auto dealerships occur frequently in both urban and rural areas.

Serious consideration should be given to all aspects of dealership security, and preventive measures should be taken wherever possible. Every business and situation will be different, however we have included key areas to address and have provided some common strategies to reduce your risk of theft.

**Building Protection:**

Based on past experience, we know a building alarm system should be considered mandatory. There are numerous types available, but the most typical for auto dealerships include:

- alarms monitored off premises
- ULC listed station with line security
- motion detectors, door contacts, and glass sensors.

**Perimeter Protection:**

Protecting the land around your building can be just as important as protecting the building itself. One of the most common ways to protect the perimeter is with fencing. Things to consider include:

- a chain link fence topped with barbed wire.
- galvanized steel posts set in concrete.
- entrances should have strong metal gates with professional-grade padlocks.
- when the locks are not in use, they should be locked on the fence or taken indoors for safe storage.
- while in use, keep the padlocks inside metal boxes to prevent being cut.
- concrete deadweights or deep ditches can be utilized to restrict vehicle movement.

Other methods of protecting the perimeter can include decorative boulders or posts set in concrete.

**Exterior Lighting:**

Brightly lit areas are considered one of the best theft deterrents. The lighting should be as bright as possible and kept at full power throughout the night.

**Video Surveillance System:**

A variety of surveillance systems exist, and finding the one most appropriate for you and your business is key. Some things to consider are:

- the exterior can be protected by a local video surveillance system or a digital video recorder (DVR).
- the DVR offers a larger recording capacity on the hard disk and allows personal off-site supervision via the Internet.
- the system, combined with outdoor motion detectors, is much more efficient when supervised by a monitoring station. The intruders are immediately detected and a vocal message sent from the station asks them to leave the facility.
- signs should be posted notifying visitors of the cameras. This will discourage some thieves.

**Security Patrol Or Watchman:**

Dealerships can hire security patrols or watchmen for regular and frequent patrols after business hours. Sharing the cost with other local businesses helps keep expenses low.



**Knowing your business matters.**

### **Vehicles In Storage:**

- High performance and sports automobiles are target stock and should be surrounded by less expensive cars to prevent theft.
- A large variety of anti-theft devices are now available to secure vehicles.
- All mag wheels should be protected by proper locknuts.

### **Display Ramps:**

- Cars have been stolen by simply being towed off the display ramps onto the beds of dump trucks.
- Display ramps should have metal bars or edges, of at least 1-foot in height, on the front and rear sides, just at the face of the tires.

### **Key Control:**

- Keys should always be stored inside locked metal cabinets. The cabinets should be located in well-supervised areas, which are not easily accessible or visible to the public. The second set of keys should be kept inside filing cabinets, preferably located in the office area.
- Similar attention should be paid to the keys of customers' cars being serviced in the garage or body shop.
- Do not use keyboards in accessible areas.
- Keys should never be left inside the showroom cars.

### **Partners In Prevention**

At Federated Insurance, we believe Loss Prevention is a critical component of your Risk Management Program. Your Risk Services Coordinator together with our Loss Prevention Team is available to assist you in developing security measures appropriate for your Dealership. Working together to reduce your loss exposures protects your bottom line!

For more information, contact your Risk Services Coordinator, our Loss Prevention Department at 1-800-665-1934, or visit our website at [www.federated.ca](http://www.federated.ca)

Federated Insurance provides this Loss Prevention Bulletin as a service to our policyholders and their business advisors. The information provided is intended to be general in nature, and may not apply in your province. The advice of independent legal or other business advisors should be obtained in developing forms and procedures for your business. The recommendations in this bulletin are designed to reduce the risk of loss, but should not be construed as eliminating any risk or loss.