

GPS Thefts on the Rise in Long Island



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If you're like me you get excited about new electronic gadgets. Our excitement grows when the prices drop down, and the common man can afford them. Using this gadget on a daily basis makes me wonder how we ever got along without them.

One of the hottest items this past Christmas was the GPS system. GPS stands for Global Positioning Satellite, which is a high tech navigational tool. With this boost in popularity has come a spike in reported thefts of these gadgets throughout Nassau County.

Reports of stolen GPS systems have more than doubled since last year. Nassau police officials held a press conference February 2008 to raise awareness about this growing problem. There are simple steps you can take to prevent the theft of vehicles with the GPS system. Taking your GPS off its mount and hiding it isn't good enough. The suction cup from the mounting unit leaves a mark on your window and is a dead

giveaway that you have a GPS system hidden in the car. Police suggest that you carry a small bottle of window cleaner in your car and wipe off the ring on your window every time you take down your system. This simple action on your part could help avoid thieves breaking into your car to look for the devices. So you're avoiding hundreds of dollars of window repairs.

It's been reported that police on patrols are going an extra step in Baldwin, Merrick and Bellmore. They are leaving the drivers informational warning fliers on their windshields.

During the day thieves canvass parking lots at LIRR stations and shopping malls. At night bold thieves target cars parked outside homes and even driveways.

We're living in different times, so I urge fellow drivers not to leave GPS systems, DVD players, cell phones, blackberry/PDA and other electronic devices in plain site. Put them in your trunk or take them with you...a few extra seconds will save you a lot of heartache and frustration.

For further information on steps on how you can protect your valuables. Contact your local precincts or click on the Nassau/Suffolk Police links on 516ads.com. See you next month! -Evantz