

# Did You Know?

It's Not Just Your Vehicle —  
Thieves Want the Parts, Too.

Radios and wheel covers aren't the only popular stolen vehicle parts thieves take. They want whatever sells, from the mandated labeled parts to those that aren't. NHTSA's regulations require vehicle manufacturers to label their vehicles' major component parts—called parts-marking—with the vehicle identification number (VIN) unless the vehicle line is granted an exemption. An exemption may occur if an antitheft device has been installed by the manufacturer as standard equipment on the entire vehicle line. Parts-marking has been shown to help reduce and deter motor vehicle theft, as well as help law enforcement identify, trace, and recover parts from stolen motor vehicles that ultimately helps with prosecuting the crime.

Vehicle thieves can strip a vehicle in less than 30 minutes—and make two to four times a vehicle's worth by selling its individual parts.

The following parts are required by Federal law to be marked.

- Engine
- Transmission
- Hood
- Right/left front fenders
- Right/left front doors
- Right/left rear doors
- Sliding or cargo doors
- Deck lid
- Tailgate or hatchback
- Front/rear bumpers
- Right/left rear quarter panels
- Right/left-side assembly (MPVs)
- Pickup box and/or cargo box
- Rear doors

There are other hot parts and items that criminals have recently targeted, but don't fall under NHTSA's regulatory responsibility.

- Air bags
- Rims and wheels
- Batteries
- Radiators
- Catalytic converters
- Radios and CD players
- Portable GPS units
- DVD entertainment systems
- Any items left visible in your car, such as iPods, laptops, and purses

