

# HIDE IT, LOCK IT, OR LOSE IT.



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by Security Chief Tim Moy

Laguna Woods Village is a beautiful, safe place to call home. As a private community we have 14 security gates as well as dedicated personnel who consistently safeguard our neighborhoods. However, with roughly 20,000 visitors per day, Laguna Woods Village is not completely immune to crime.

## Our residents are very important to us.

“Hide it, Lock it, or Lose it” should remind us all of the importance of concealing and locking personal property in order to deter would be thieves. A petty criminal looks for an easy target, and in the Village, these opportunities are found in the form of an unlocked car, unsecure carport cabinet or unattended property. When items are left unsecured, it only takes a thief a few seconds to “grab and go” and your valuables are most likely gone forever. However, barriers such as the noise of a broken window or forcible entry, time searching for unknown contents, and leaving DNA evidence behind are just a few issues a thief would rather avoid. The bad guy’s mindset is to get in and out using the quickest and easiest avenue.

“Hide it, Lock it, or Lose it.” Taking the extra 3-4 seconds to secure vehicles, garages, carports, cabinets and keeping valuables out of plain sight, will keep Laguna Woods Village the safest community in the region.



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## Reduce the risk of becoming a target by taking the steps listed below to conceal and secure your property both within and outside the village.

- Remove cell phones, cameras, laptop computers, briefcases, backpacks, wallets and purses from unattended vehicles. Do not leave gift wrapped packages or other valuable items lying on the seat. Lock all other valuables in the trunk or glove compartment or take with you.
- Always close your windows and lock your vehicle and garage doors.
- Secure your carport cabinets with heavy duty locks.
- Don’t leave your vehicle in unattended parking lots for extended periods. A car is five times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot than from the street or an attended lot.
- Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your car and home. If you have to leave your keys with a parking attendant, leave only the ignition key.
- At night park your car near or under a street light.
- Consider adding a car alarm system. Always set your alarm if so equipped.

