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America's Most Stolen Vehicles

ForbesAutos.com

Going outside and finding broken glass where your car used to be parked is a stomach-sickening experience. Luxury and premium vehicles often have one-of-a-kind components that can't be easily replaced and, in some instances, the car itself might be one of a kind. Protecting your prized possession is vital. So which luxury cars and trucks out there are most at risk, and what can you do to make your vehicle less desirable to thieves?

Although a significant number of luxury vehicles are stolen each year, it's important to note that these pricey cars and trucks do not have a higher theft rate than those selling at lower price points. Vehicles that are 10 or more years old are more likely to be theft targets. This is due to a thriving used-car parts market as well as availability -- there are simply more pre-owned than new vehicles on streets and in garages at any given time. In addition, newer high-end cars have more sophisticated technology that makes them more difficult -- although not impossible -- to steal.

"Luxury cars do not have more frequent theft claims than their cheaper counterparts. However, because of their higher value, luxury cars tend to have higher average loss payments per claim," said Kim Hazelbaker of the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI). "Overall, theft losses are below average for midsize and large luxury cars as a group and significantly above average for the very large luxury cars (Rolls, Bentley, S-class, 7 series, etc.)."

[Go to Forbes.com to see the top 10 most stolen luxury vehicles.](#)


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by Ben Stein

This ForbesAutos.com Top 10 list of the most commonly stolen luxury vehicles in the U.S. was compiled based on figures released by the HLDI in fall 2005. These figures cover 2002-2004 model year vehicles with an original MSRP of \$30,000 or more. All losses are stated in relative terms, with a rating of 100 representing the average theft loss for all vehicles. For example, a rating of 122 is 22 percent worse than average, and 90 is 10 percent better than the average insured vehicle year filed under comprehensive coverages. Of the 371 total vehicles listed by HLDI, our Top 10 list of models with the highest ratings for theft is limited to only luxury automobiles.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, close to 1.2 million total vehicles were stolen in the United States in 2004 alone. As for the types of high-end cars and trucks targeted, vehicle theft trends change over time and appear to be directly related to the types of rides consumers desire. "We clearly see the increased popularity of SUVs reflected in their higher theft rates in recent years," Hazelbaker said.

Top 10 Most Stolen Vehicles

1. Cadillac Escalade
2. Hummer H2
3. BMW 7L Series
4. Honda S2000 Convertible
5. Lincoln Navigator
6. Chevrolet Avalanche
7. Mercedes-Benz S-Class
8. Chevrolet Corvette
9. Mercedes-Benz SL-Class Convertible
10. BMW X5

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