

Consumer Alert

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Oregon auto thefts decrease by 27 percent statewide in 2023

Take precautions to help prevent auto theft and consider optional Comprehensive insurance coverage

- *The [National Insurance Crime Bureau \(NICB\)](#) reports more than one million motor vehicles were stolen last year, a one percent increase from 2022.*
- *Oregon ranked ninth in the nation for vehicle theft rate in 2023 but saw a 27 percent decrease in the number of vehicles stolen, according to data provided by NICB.*
- *Owners of vehicles stolen are “on the hook” without [Comprehensive Insurance Coverage](#).*

PORTLAND, OR, April 17, 2024– The [National Insurance Crime Bureau’s](#) (NICB) 2023 *Vehicle Theft Trends* report shows thefts increased again in the United States with more than one million vehicles stolen last year. Oregon, however, saw a 27 percent decrease in vehicle thefts (16,709 vehicles stolen last year compared to 22,808 in 2022) but still ranked ninth in the nation for theft rate, which means 394.14 vehicles per 100,000 people were stolen in 2023.

In addition to taking auto theft prevention measures, The NW Insurance Council urges vehicle owners to consider optional [Comprehensive or Other than Collision](#) coverage to help protect themselves financially if their vehicle is stolen, because it is the only type of policy that will cover auto theft.

“Insurers see hopeful signs that auto theft is returning to pre-pandemic levels in Oregon, but we also know that the dramatic increase in the cost to repair or replace a stolen vehicle is contributing to higher insurance premiums for many Oregon drivers – even those who are not theft victims,” said NW Insurance Council President Kenton Brine. “So we urge Oregonians to continue to be vigilant about preventing auto theft.”

[Comprehensive or Other than Collision Coverage](#) will help pay to repair or replace a stolen vehicle. This type of policy also pays - up to the limits of the policy (typically after a deductible has been paid by the policyholder) - for vehicle damage not caused by a collision with another vehicle, including damage from fire, hail, windstorm, auto glass breakage and even if the vehicle hits a deer.

The [NW Insurance Council](#) urges drivers talk to their insurance company or agent to verify if the current auto insurance policy they have will help if the worst happens and their car or truck is stolen.

NICB and NW Insurance Council recommend that vehicle owners follow these tips to help guard against auto theft:

- Park in well-lit areas.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Never leave valuables inside your vehicle, especially if they are visible from outside the vehicle.
- Never leave your keys inside the vehicle.
- Don't leave the area while your vehicle is running.

- If your vehicle is stolen, call law enforcement and your auto insurer immediately. Reporting a vehicle as soon as possible after it is stolen increases the chance of recovery.

How to Help Stop Auto Theft & Insurance Fraud

In some cases, auto theft is a form of insurance fraud when vehicle owners arrange to have their vehicles stolen with hopes of collecting the insurance money. If you witness or have knowledge of an auto theft, you can report it anonymously by calling toll-free 1-800-TEL-NICB (1-800-835-6422) or [submitting a form](#) on NICB's website.

For more information auto theft and insurance fraud, visit [National Insurance Crime Bureau](#) and [NW Insurance Council](#).

NW Insurance Council is a nonprofit, insurer-supported organization providing information about home, auto and business insurance to consumers, media and public policymakers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

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