

## How To Keep Your Car / Truck / Trailer From Being Stolen

It's a familiar scenario. You return to the parking lot where you left your trailer and it's nowhere in sight. Or you get up early at that hotel near the racetrack and the truck and trailer are gone.

Almost daily we hear or see a posting on facebook about a racecar or hot rod being stolen; with its trailer, sometimes just the trailer by itself. After 50 years of towing racecars and hot rods around the country; hundreds of thousands of miles, with never a problem, I thought I'd share with you my secrets. P.S. this is mostly common sense, not much of a secret.

In no particular order, whenever my racecar, hot rod or trailer is parked anywhere, i do the following:

The trailer hitch is always padlocked to the truck. I also use an additional cable and padlock from the truck to the trailer. No one is leaving with just the trailer and a coupler lock also keeps people from stealing the hitch off your truck when it's not in use. Remember to lock your safety chains to the hitch, otherwise someone might try to drag the trailer away using just the chains.



Figure 1 - Coupler Lock

All my cars and trucks (GM products) have built in alarms. Though not foolproof, they do work. In addition I subscribe to Onstar (other manufacturers have similar programs). For \$20 a month, you get pretty good service, the ability to have the car tracked and even shutoff If it has been stolen.

I also have a Dewalt Mobilock - a portable rechargeable battery wireless alarm that calls me, e-mails me and texts me if actuated, provides GPS tracking and has a really loud siren. With a magnetic mount, I just stick it under the racecar. They cost about \$220 and \$19.95 a month for service. Designed for construction sites and such, it's durable and pretty much foolproof. Get all the details at <https://www.dewaltmobilelock.com>



Figure 2 Dewalt Mobilock

Also I use the "club" steering wheel lock on all my vehicles. if somehow a thief breaks in, he still has to contend with the steering wheel locked up. All that while alarms are going off !!



Figure 3 The Club

Lastly, I use cable locks on all the trailer wheels. There are a variety of wheel locks available. take your choice but use them.



**Figure 4 Cable Locks**



**Figure 7 Tire Lock**

I try to back into a corner, up against a wall or bushes to prevent access from the rear. If i need to have the trailer unhooked and parked by itself, in addition to the above I use a coupler lock that prevents someone from just hooking up and driving off. If possible I'll cable or chain it to a nearby fence or light post or a friends trailer. The same goes for my tow vehicle wherever I have to leave it.



**Figure 5 Trailer Door Lock**

With open trailers, I always cable lock the car to the trailer. Enclosed trailers have many theftproof additions available as the standard door locks are marginal at best

Some other consideration; paint and letter your trailer (generic white trailers are a dime a dozen and hard to identify) and put the license plate number on the roof in large letters, visible from a police helicopter.

My friends often criticize my overly anal locking procedures, suffice to say, nothing has ever been stolen, more than many people, including Roger Penske, can say. And for those who won't spend the \$20 a month on Onstar or the \$19.95 on a Mobilock to protect their \$10000 tow rig, buy good insurance.

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