

THE
INSTALL DOCTORTM

Radio Security
(How To Stay One Step Ahead Of Thieves)

Document# 999010

Securing A Radio To Prevent It From Being Stolen

Any radio can be stolen. It is just a simple truth. If a thief wants a radio badly enough, they are going to get it. However, there are some things you can do **DURING THE INSTALL** to make it more difficult for a thief to steal a radio.

Understanding How A New Radio Mounts To Your Vehicle

Radios mounted to an installation kit: Virtually all new replacement radios are ‘DIN’ style rectangular radios. For vehicles that had larger radios removed from the vehicle, these new ‘DIN’ style radios are smaller in size and require the use of a radio installation kit to mount the new radio. Mounting a radio to an installation kit allows the new radio to be properly installed into the dash, but also allows the radio to be stole rather easily. These ‘DIN’ style radios will slide into the front of the kit and secure directly to the kit, not the dash of the vehicle. Many radio thefts occur when the thief simply rips out the entire kit, with the radio still attached to the kit.

Unfortunately, many of these radio installation kits simply snap into the opening in the dash. These kits can also be un snapped and the entire unit can be easily stolen. Other kits secure to the vehicles dash with screws, then a plastic dash panel that surrounds the radio and installation kit attaches to the dash, covering the screws that secure the kit to the dash. These installations make it more difficult to steal a radio. But, because the radio is mounted to the kit, the radio can be pulled out from the front of the kit, leaving the kit in the dash.

Radios ‘ISO’ mounted to the automakers pocket below the radio: For many vehicles, the automakers radio can be unscrewed from the pocket below the radio and the new radio inserted into the same location. These radios are the hardest to steal because they require the removal of the dash panel which surrounds the radio and the removal of the entire radio/pocket assembly from the dash. Unfortunately, not enough automakers design their radios in this manner.

Securing The New Radio With A “Backstrap”

Backstraps are metal brackets typically included with many new radios. These brackets, approximately 8-10 inches long, have holes predrilled into the metal to allow bolts or screws to be inserted into the holes. The backstrap can be bent into a variety of shapes and allows the installer to secure the rear of the radio to the dash or frame of the vehicle when the backstrap is secured with a screw/bolt to the dash. The other end of the backstrap is secured to the rear of the radio. If you look at the rear of the radio, you will notice a small bolt or a location for a bolt packaged with the radio. This bolt is for a backstrap to be attached to the rear of the radio.

Another item that can be used, but not used very often, is a small chain or cable. The concept is the same but chains or cables are longer and can be extended farther than the fixed 8-10 inch length of the backstrap.

