



SPRING/SUMMER 2025

Block Watch Beat

A Newsletter for Block Watch Community Safety

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ENHANCE YOUR APARTMENT LIVING

CONNECT AND FEEL MORE SECURE WITH BLOCK WATCH



Here's how Block Watch can positively impact your apartment life:

- **Stronger Community Ties:** Connect with your neighbours, fostering a friendlier and more supportive living environment.
- **Stay Informed:** Receive updates from your local Block Watch office about relevant community safety information.
- **Boost Awareness:** Understand what's happening in your neighbourhood, empowering you to be more mindful.
- **Learn Practical Tips:** Gain insights into simple security measures to better protect your home and share property.
- **Know How to Respond:** Understand the proper channels for reporting incidents to police or bylaw.
- **Privacy Respected:** Your personal information is handled with care, and communication prioritizes community building and helpful information.

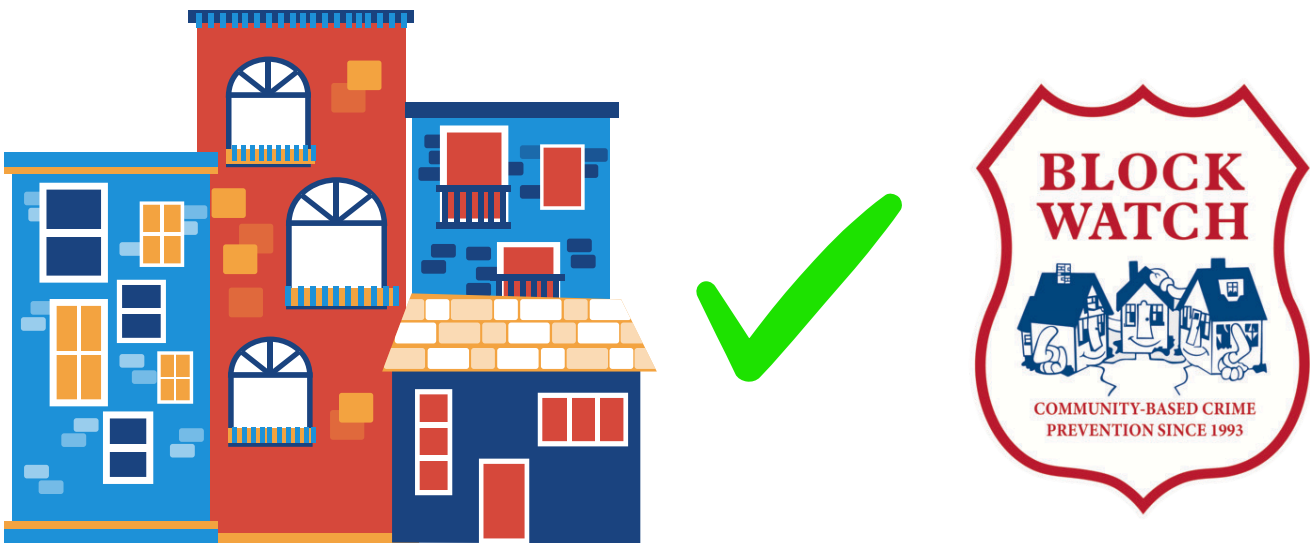
How it works:

Resident volunteers can become Block Watch Leads, connecting neighbours and sharing information with the Block Watch office and complex management. Participation is open to all residents.

Benefits for you:

By participating, you contribute to a more connected and aware community. You'll gain valuable knowledge and build relationships with your neighbours, creating a stronger sense of belonging and shared responsibility.

READY TO EXPERIENCE A MORE CONNECTED AND
COMFORTABLE APARTMENT LIVING ENVIRONMENT?
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BLOCK WATCH OFFICE TO
LEARN MORE.



VISIT WWW.BLOCKWATCH.COM TO FIND YOUR LOCAL
CONTACT AND DISCOVER HOW EASY IT IS TO GET
INVOLVED.

BITCOIN ATM SCAMS ALERT

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Fraudsters are increasingly using Bitcoin ATMs to scam victims. Scammers impersonate government officials, banks, or police and pressure people to withdraw cash and deposit into a Bitcoin ATM.

HOW THE SCAM WORKS:



Spoofed call: You receive a call pretending to be from CRA, ICBC, police or a bank.



Urgent threats: They claim you owe money or face arrest.



Cash withdrawal: They instruct you to withdraw cash from your bank.



Bitcoin ATM deposit: They send a QR code and coach you to deposit money into their Bitcoin wallet - stealing your funds!

RED FLAGS TO WATCH OUT FOR:

- ▶ Pressure to act immediately
- ▶ Requests for payment through Bitcoin ATMs, e-transfers or gift cards
- ▶ Complex jargon or technical language

HOW TO STAY SAFE:

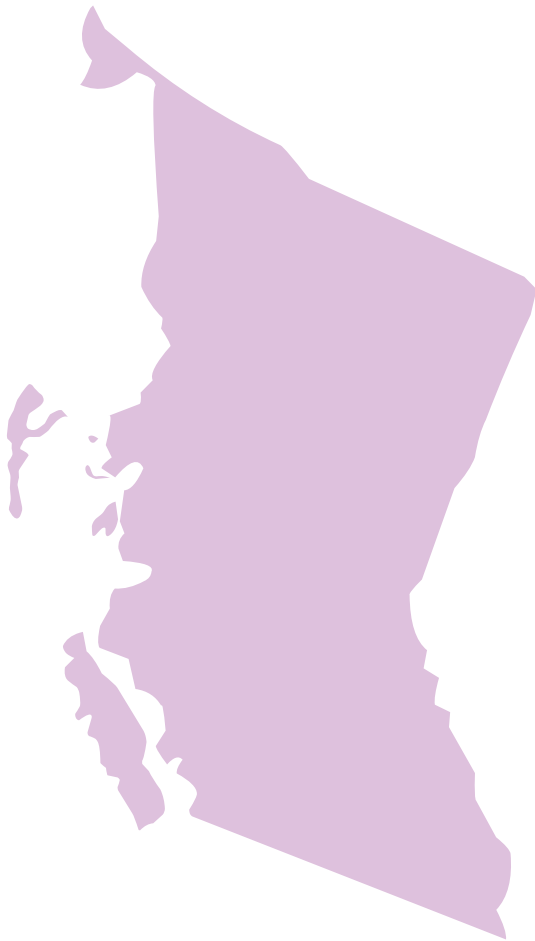
- ✓ Never share personal information
- ✓ Never make payments via Bitcoin ATMs
- ✓ Do your research and use only reputable cryptocurrency

HOW TO REPORT IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF THIS SCAM:

- Contact your **local police department** to make a report.
- Report it to your **bank** and/or **credit card** company as soon as possible.
- Call the **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre**: 1-888-495-8501 to report.
- Monitor your credit score through **Equifax Canada** or **Transunion Canada**.

HOW TO STOP CAR THIEVES: 5 SMART TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE

Vehicle theft is a major issue in British Columbia, with around **6,900 cars stolen annually**. The financial and emotional impact on victims is significant, but many thefts can be prevented with a few simple steps.



Car theft can happen in various ways, from opportunistic thieves taking advantage of unlocked doors or running engines to organized rings targeting specific vehicles. Thefts often occur quickly, in less than a minute, and in places we consider safe, like driveways or parking lots.

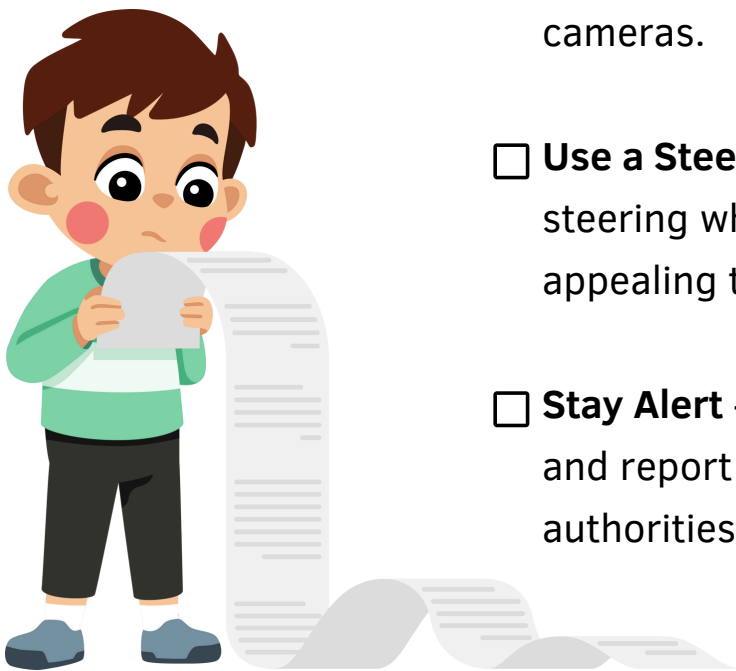
While modern cars come with anti-theft features like immobilizers and GPS tracking, no system is foolproof. Thieves continue to find ways around these technologies, so experts recommend a layered security approach. This includes combining technology, physical deterrents, and good habits.

Understanding where and how thefts happen is key. Thieves often target cars that are easy to access—unlocked, running, or in poorly lit areas—and sometimes don't even need to break in, just taking advantage of keys left inside.



VEHICLE PROTECTION CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Lock Doors & Close Window** - Check that all doors are locked and windows are fully closed before leaving your car.
- ☐ **Never Leave Keys Inside** - Always take your keys with you—never leave them in the car, even for a moment.
- ☐ **Park in Well-Lit Areas** - Choose secure, well-lit spots with high foot traffic or near security cameras.
- ☐ **Use a Steering Wheel Lock** - Install a visible steering wheel lock to make your car a less appealing target.
- ☐ **Stay Alert** - Be aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity to authorities.



By using these simple strategies together, you can significantly reduce the risk of theft and protect your vehicle.

We acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia.

The Block Watch Society of BC newsletter is a collective effort of volunteer Directors and society staff. If you see any errors, please notify blockwatch@blockwatch.com

BLOCK WATCH SOCIETY OF BC

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OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

 YouTube: Block Watch of BC

 Facebook: @bcblockwatch