

all, replacing and destroying the windows of an automobile permanently etched with its vehicle identification number is a job too costly and time-consuming for even the most professional thief or chop shop operator!

VIN Etching is provided by the Virginia State Police H.E.A.T. Program in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies throughout Virginia.

For more information about VIN Etching and to view **H.E.A.T.'s** calendar of events, check out the **H.E.A.T. Web Site** at **www.heatreward.com**.

Remember, call 1-800-947-HEAT (4328) to report information regarding auto thefts, the theft of auto parts, carjacking, chop-shop activity and theft rings. When you call, no one will ask your name, and everything you say will be held in the strictest confidence. If your tip leads to an arrest for an auto theft related crime in Virginia, you could receive a reward of as much as \$25,000.



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*In partnership with law enforcement agencies
throughout Virginia*

www.heatreward.com

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**VIN
ETCHING
COULD KEEP
YOUR
CAR
FROM
BECOMING
A STEAL.**

Virginians pay a high price for stolen vehicles. Thefts drive up the cost of automobile insurance and generate an innumerable amount of social costs associated with crime. Now, there's a safe and economical deterrent to auto theft. It's known as VIN Etching.

All vehicles carry a federally-assigned number known as a Vehicle Identification Number or VIN. Making sure your vehicle's VIN is permanently marked on all the vehicle's windows steers thieves away. Why? Well, for one thing, disposing of a stolen vehicle whose windows have been VIN Etched takes time, money and a great deal of effort. That's because to disguise the true identity of a VIN Etched stolen car, all the windows must be replaced. Replacing vehicle glass is a costly and time-consuming process which thieves choose to avoid. And VIN Etching obliterates any potential profit professional thieves might have gleaned from the lucrative practice of selling windows and windshields as parts via chop shop operations.

VIN Etching steals the windows of opportunity from thieves and turns them into windows of evidence.

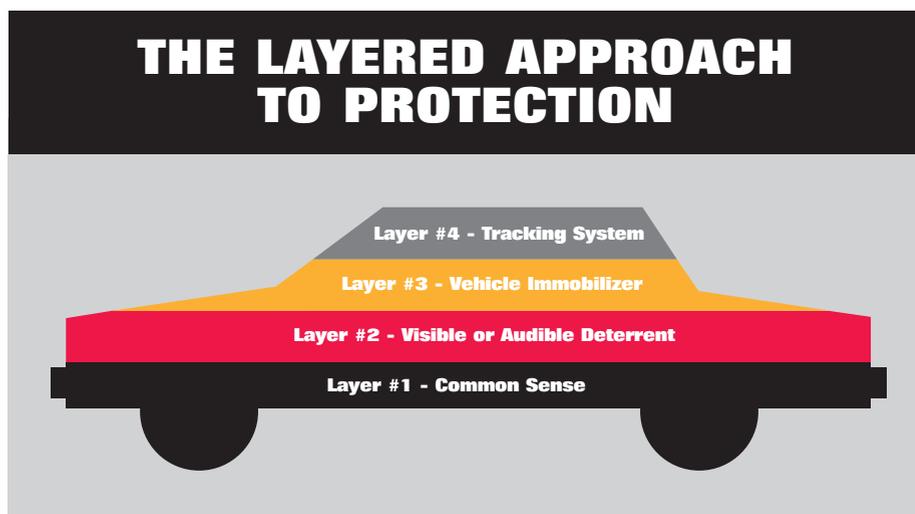
VIN Etched windows help the police detect and identify stolen vehicles.

VIN Etching is simple, fast, safe, relatively inexpensive and won't mar the appearance of

the vehicle. Numbers are etched into the glass with a chemical solution. And those numbers will be there for good.

VIN Etching is one crucial layer out of many strategies to drive away car thieves.

Another is to use common sense by locking your car and taking your keys. And, remember never leave the car running while it is unattended. Also, use visible and audible deterrents to alert



thieves that your car is protected. Popular examples include: audible alarms, steering wheel locks, steering column collars, theft deterrent decals, tire locks, and VIN Etching. High tech devices such as “smart” keys, fuse cut-offs, kill switches, and starter/ignition/fuel disablers hinder would-be thieves.

Find a permanent road block to theft.

VIN Etching, when used in conjunction with other preventive tools, is a signal that will likely discourage a potential automobile thief. After