How can you stop laptop theft?

Laptop computers have become an invaluable tool in our modern lives. They provide portability and countless functions that enhance our work, school, and personal entertainment experience. Unfortunately, laptop computers are also a prize acquisition for the criminal element. This brochure provides you, the laptop owner, tips and information on how to protect yourself from laptop theft.

LAPTOP THEFT PREVENTION

SHORELINE POLICE

LAPTOP THEFT PREVENTION

LAPTOP THEFT PREVENTION

A laptop owner's guide and resource

Where the heck is my Laptop?

Laptop computers in schools

During the 2006-2007 academic year, students and the school district reported 133 laptop computers stolen in Shoreline. The school district and the police work closely together to greatly reduce crime, such as theft, at schools. But the main criminal deterrents are vigilance and awareness from everyone.

Students, parents, police and teachers are the key to stopping laptop theft at schools. Students should immediately contact police when they suspect a crime is taking place.

Theft vs. Robbery

Theft defined: RCW 9A.56.020 states that theft is "to wrongfully obtain or exert control over the property or services of another…"

Robbery defined: RCW 9A.56.190 states robbery is when "a person taking personal property from another by use of a threat of immediate force, violence, or fear of injury…"

Laptop Robbery

Treat laptop robbery like any other robbery. DO NOT FIGHT OR RESIST. Cooperate with the robber; no laptop is worth your safety or life. Be the best witness you can be; observe the robber's description and characteristics. Get information from any witnesses. Call 9-1-1 immediately.

Thwarting Laptop Theft Tips

Vigilance and awareness are key to prevent yourself from becoming a theft victim. Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind in protecting your computer:

- Keep in constant contact with your computer.

- Be aware of your computer's location and of those around you.

- Avoid obvious laptop bags and computer carrying cases.

- Secure your computer when unattended.

- Protect and secure all sensitive information through encryption and back-up.

- Use your laptop's password features.

- Whenever possible, lock up your laptop.

Laptop tracking technology

Many computer makers offer theft deterrent and tracking software programs installed in laptop notebooks. If stolen, your laptop reports its location using any internet connection, making it possible to recover your computer. Check with your computer manufacturer for details.