

NIBRS Tip of the Month

Motor Vehicle Theft versus Theft from Vehicle

What differentiates a Motor Vehicle Theft from Theft from a Motor Vehicle?

- **The FBI definition of Motor Vehicle Theft: "The theft of a motor vehicle - a self-propelled vehicle that runs on the surface of land and not on rails."**
For example: An automobile, bus, truck, or other motor vehicle designed to transport people.
- **The FBI definition of Theft from Motor Vehicle: "The theft of articles from a motor vehicle, locked or unlocked."**
For example: A camera, suitcase, clothing, package, or other item not affixed to the vehicle or not an integral part of the vehicle.
- **The FBI definition of Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories: "The theft of any part or accessory affixed to the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle in a manner which would make the item an attachment of the vehicle or necessary for its operation."**
For example: A motor, transmission, built-in audio or video player, heater, tires/wheels, license plates, side-view mirrors, or siphoned fuel.

