



# AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE



Montgomery County  
City of Conroe  
Montgomery County Fire Marshal's Office  
D.P.S./Motor Vehicle Theft



Grimes County  
San Jacinto County  
Polk County  
Walker County

## VIN ETCHING

VIN (vehicle identification number) etching is a relatively new deterrent for auto theft. When etching the VIN number of a vehicle, a stencil is made of the vehicle's VIN number that is placed on the window of the vehicle. An acid is then applied over the VIN number that **permanently** etches the VIN number into the window. The etched number is about ¼ inch high, and is placed in the lower corner of the window. Due to the fact that the number is placed in the lower corner of the window, it does not block the driver's sight at all.

Having your vehicle etched is a good deterrent for auto theft for several reasons. If someone is looking to steal a vehicle, they will be more likely to take one that does not have the windows etched versus one that does. Why is this so? Well, if a car thief is looking to sell the parts of the vehicle for money, they will not be able to sell the windows because of the etching. Also, if a car thief is looking to keep the car but change the identity by swapping the VIN plate and the license plates, he/she will have to get all new windows as well so that the vehicle does not have the correct VIN number in a visible place. Replacing the windows in a vehicle can cost several thousands of dollars. Having your vehicle VIN etched also counts as an insurance discount! Many insurance agencies will give their customers anywhere from a 5% - 15% discount on their policy because they consider having the windows etched a security device.

Watch Your Car  
TEXAS AUTOMOBILE THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

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