

HOW TO INSPECT YOUR CAR PROPERLY

You will no doubt say to yourself, I've already been taught to check my car correctly. I should always look into the back seat first! This is just what the modern rapist wants you to do. You see he too reads and hears how women are taught to first look into the back seat and he will capitalize on just that. Even though you lock your car (and you should always lock it) a rapist can get in, as well as other individuals, is they really want to do so; but it is much harder when the car door is locked.

This is what has been occurring, the rapist will get into the victims car. Not in the back seat but in the front seat on the driver's side. He will pull the door handle back and hold it towards himself so that when you approach the car it will look closed and not be protruding or jutting out. Next as you are standing by the front door and starting to look into the back seat, the rapist will suddenly push and strike you with the entire front door, thus knocking you to the ground and no doubt injuring you as well as being able to assault you there, in the car, or take you to another location.

The right way to insure your safety, which only takes a few seconds, is to approach your car from the back passenger side. There are two reasons for this; first you can look into the car at both the front and back seats simultaneously. Secondly, if anyone is under the car, ready to grab you by the ankles (which has happened) you can see him as you approach the car from the rear. I might note at this time, you will always see experienced officers standing behind the crease in your car door, having you hand back your drivers license to them. They don't want to be knocked out into the traffic or down on the pavement.

Ask your local Law Enforcement officers, they can help you a great deal with more information as well as your Victim Services or Rape Crisis Bureaus. They deal with this type of crime every day. I might add at this time be sure to ... lock your car and park in a lighted area, have a friend walk with you if it is night or if you are in a particularly bad area and be sure to check your car properly. Don't make this common mistake made by so many women while on your way home, don't stop at your favorite convenience store for that bread or milk and leave your car unlocked or running while you run in and out. YOU could have someone behind you when you start to drive off and all your precautions would mean nothing.

A rapist can be anywhere at any time, so be prepared, Take that few extra seconds every time to check you car properly. It could save your life.

Captain James A. Smith