



THE ARIZONA AUTOMOBILE THEFT AUTHORITY AND YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S FREE VIN ETCHING PROGRAM

What is VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Etching?

VIN Etching is the process of permanently etching the vehicle's 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on each piece of window glass on the vehicle.

Why should you consider VIN Etching on your vehicle as a visual theft deterrent against auto theft?

Etching your vehicle's VIN number serves as a permanent fingerprint of your vehicle. VIN etching is an effective visual deterrent against auto theft.

When a vehicle is stolen, the thief must change the identity of the vehicle by changing the VIN identification plate on the dashboard. With a new VIN identification plate in place, he/she now has a new vehicle. BUT, with a vehicle that has its window glass VIN etched, the thief must replace and dispose of each piece of window glass, which drastically cuts into their profit margin. As a thief contemplates stealing your vehicle, they will notice the etching on the glass, and may move on to an unmarked vehicle.

Will it damage your vehicle or alter the appearance in any way?

No. The process only affects the outer most layer of the glass. This will in no way damage your windows or make them weaker. In addition, the VIN number etched on each piece of glass is only ¼" in height and approximately 2" in width. The numbering has a white color that can be seen within a few feet of your vehicle. Thieves and police officers know where to look for the etching, however, the casual passer-by will not notice.

How long does this process take?

It should only take 10 minutes per vehicle. The vehicle owner must show proof of vehicle ownership, current registration and complete a consent form provided by the hosting agency.

To check on future events offering free VIN etching, visit the AATA's web site at www.azwatchyourcar.com, click on EVENTS.