



JENELLE SCHNEIDER/VANCOUVER SUN

**Dressed as the Grinch, Det. Phil Ens shows how thieves might use a tool to break into cars during the holiday season.**

## Thieves looking to play Grinch, police warn

Car thieves are armed and ready to steal gifts left in vehicles in the last few days before Christmas, Vancouver police warn.

Det. Phil Ens donned green Grinch face paint and a Santa hat outside Vancouver police headquarters Thursday to show reporters how easy it is for thieves to break into cars when they have the right tools.

In seconds, he had effortlessly opened a locked vehicle and taken the video games and MP3 players on the back seat.

In another demonstration, he used a tiny piece of porcelain to smash a window and grab more goods.

Ens said shoppers should remember to put their parcels securely away in their vehicles' trunks and not leave anything visible on the seats.

"They are going to wait until you spend a lot of money," Ens said of thieves.

*Larry Pynn, Vancouver Sun*