Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Etching is a fast, safe, and simple process of having a vehicle’s VIN engraved onto its windows using a chemical solution. Once the VIN has been etched on all the windows, a thief must strip and replace every piece of glass in order to profit off the sale of the stolen vehicle or its parts. Doing so is a time-consuming and expensive feat, which deters many thieves from stealing VIN-etched vehicles in the first place. It’s one of the most effective means to deter auto theft currently available.