

REDUCING CAR CRIME

PREVENTING KEYLESS CAR THEFT

Criminals are using increasingly sophisticated methods to steal motor vehicles. Your vehicle could be at risk.



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

TOTAL POLICING



PREVENTING THEFT FROM VEHICLES

Your vehicle and any items inside could be targeted by thieves; take these simple steps to reduce the chances of becoming a victim:

- Installing Thatcham approved alarms and immobilisers are an excellent deterrent.
- Don't leave anything on display – it's a prime invitation to passers-by. Even an old coat or plastic bag can tempt a thief. If items have to be left in the vehicle, put them out of sight at the start of your journey.
- Portable 'sat-nav' systems are often held in a cradle attached to the windscreen or dashboard on full view, so take it out of the vehicle and place the cradle out of sight in the boot.
- Cradles alone indicate to offenders that vehicles have 'sat-nav' systems, so ensure that you remove all traces by wiping off the suction marks from the windscreen.
- Property mark the 'sat-nav' with your postcode and house name or number. Make a note of the make, model and serial number and register it free of charge on the National Property Register at www.immobilise.com.
- Driving documents and personal correspondence could help a thief to sell your vehicle or provide a cover story if stopped by the police – don't keep them in the vehicle.
- Some thieves break into houses to steal vehicle keys. Always keep the keys in a safe place. Don't leave them in the hallway or kitchen, as these are the obvious places a thief will look.
- Alloy wheels should be secured with locking wheel nuts, which have been tested to withstand attack and meet Category 4 Thatcham approval.
- Steering wheel locks, which have been tested to withstand attack and meet Category 3 Thatcham approval, should be applied every time you leave your vehicle.
- Number plates should be secured with one-way security screws, to prevent them being removed and used in crime.
- If you have a garage at home, use it. If you don't, try to park it in a well-lit open place.
- Look for public car parks that are part of the police approved 'Park Mark' Safer Parking Scheme.

For advice on recommended security devices, see:

www.thatcham.org/security
www.soldsecure.com

In an emergency dial 999. For all other police related enquiries call our non-emergency number **101** or visit our website www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention