

# CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE



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## ANY VEHICLE CAN BE A TARGET

Your vehicle can be a target for criminals, regardless of its age or value. Vehicles can be stolen to order by organised gangs, as a way to get home after a night out or can be targeted for their contents. There are things you can do to reduce the chances of your vehicle being targeted.

### RELAY ATTACK

#### *What is it?*

If you have a wireless key fob, a thief can pick up the signal from the key inside your home. Using a device, this signal can then trick your car into thinking your key is in range.

#### *How can it be prevented?*

- Keep your keys, including spares, in a metal box fridge or microwave.
- Use additional security such as a steering wheel lock.

### SIGNAL ATTACK

#### *What is it?*

A device can be used to block the signal between your wireless key fob and your car's central locking system which stops you being able to lock your vehicle.

#### *How can it be prevented?*

- Make sure you hear the locks engage or see the lights flash when you lock your car.
- Use the key hidden inside your fob.

### HOOK & CANE

#### *What is it?*

Thieves can use a cane with a hook or magnet on the end to reach through letter boxes and steal keys that are in range of front doors or open windows.

#### *How can it be prevented?*

- Keep keys out of sight, preferably on a key hook that is well away from any doors or windows.
- Keep doors and windows locked.
- Don't leave keys in door locks.

### SMASH & GRAB

#### *What is it?*

If thieves see any items left on display inside your vehicle, even an old coat, they may break-in hoping to find valuables.

#### *How can it be prevented?*

- Remove all valuables when you leave your vehicle.
- Consider leaving your glove compartment open to show there is nothing of value inside.

### SNOW-JACK

#### *What is it?*

Motorists start the car and leave it running unattended during cold weather so that it defrosts. Thieves use this opportunity to steal the car. If this happens you could find your insurance unwilling to pay out.

#### *How can it be prevented?*

- Never leave your vehicles engine running when unattended.
- If you have a garage, use it.

### CAR-JACK

#### *What is it?*

Offenders usually use two vehicles to block you in. They will then approach and threaten you to give up your vehicle.

#### *How can it be prevented?*

- Plan your route beforehand to avoid stopping in risky locations.
- When stopping at lights or junctions, make sure you can see the rear wheels of the vehicle in front. This should give you enough room to manoeuvre if threatened.

## GENERAL ADVICE

- Park in a busy well-lit area. Consider a 'Park Mark' award car park.
- Don't put your home address in the Sat Nav. Use local shops as a point of reference.
- Try not to tools in a van overnight and get them property marked.
- Fit tamper proof screws to prevent number plate theft.
- Consider driveway security like a security bollard or CCTV.
- Don't take your car keys to bed with you. Leave them downstairs, but out of hook and cane reach.
- Lock your vehicle every time you leave it.