



**Keep your vehicle protected in the cold weather.**

Dear Resident,

Happy New Year! It's a cold start to 2026!

Remember it only takes a matter of seconds for a thief to drive away with your car so on frosty mornings, do not be tempted to leave your vehicle unattended whilst defrosting your vehicle.

If someone takes it while it is left like this, your insurer will not pay out because you will not be covered.

Follow these simple rules to protect your vehicle from thieves:

- Lock your vehicle.

It might sound silly but locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief.

**2. Keep the keys safe.**

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door.

**3. Keyless entry.**

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry.

Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition.

Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

#### How to protect your keyless entry car

- When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car.
- Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag and check if the bag or pouch is still working every few months.
- Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second-hand car.
- Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.
- Additional physical security such as locks and immobilisers are still highly recommended.

#### 4. Fit good in-car security locks

Additional physical security can help to prevent your vehicle being driven away even if a thief gains entry. There are a range of security rated products tested by [Sold Secure](#) that can help, such as steering wheel locks, pedal boxes and gear stick locks.

Some of these products, tested to Sold Secure Diamond, can even resist a small hand-held angle grinder.

It's also worth speaking to your vehicle dealership about installing an aftermarket immobiliser approved by the manufacturer.

Immobilisers prevent a vehicle from starting unless the correct fob, key or activation process is used. They can be personalised so that you're the only one who knows how to unset it via a number of dashboard controls.

For more information about police preferred specification products that help to reduce the chances of vehicle crime please visit:

[Secured by Design \(SBD\)](#)

[Sold Secure](#)

[Thatcham Research](#)

We hope this information helps.

Kind regards,

Crime Prevention Team

It is important to us that we know about the issues that cause you concern. We have set up a survey where you can tell us about the things you would like us to focus on in your area.

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