

Car theft prevention guide

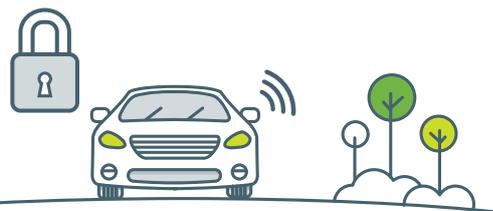


Keep your vehicle safe

Prevention is key in reducing the risk of car theft. Your vehicle can be targeted for different reasons – thieves may want your car parts, your valuables or even just to drive a stolen car for enjoyment.

Keep reading to find out our top tips to help prevent your car from being stolen:

- **Lock your car** – never leave your car unlocked, or running and unattended, even if it's just for a short period of time
- **Don't lose your keys** – it sounds almost silly but always keep your keys safe in a private place and never leave them inside the vehicle. This applies for your spare keys too – keep them in a safe place or with someone you trust
- **Extra protection** – if you've a keyless car, make sure you keep your car keys away from doors and windows and preferably in a box or tin that blocks the signal. You should use a signal blocking pouch when you're out and about. You can also switch off the wireless of some keyless fobs
- **Store valuables away** – take everything of value with you when you leave the car; if you can't always do that, keep your valuables out of sight
- **Keep your car documents safe** – don't leave your vehicle registration or other important documents in the car. If someone gets their hands on them, they can easily claim ownership



- **Park safely** – avoid parking in dark or deserted areas. Always park close to other vehicles, preferably near a street light and in areas covered by CCTV. At home, park in a garage or driveway if you can
- **Go big and bold** – noisy alarms and flashing lights are more likely to scare thieves off. Use a sticker to show off your alarm system
- **Use anti-theft devices** – park your car with your wheels turned as it makes it harder to tow away and consider buying a steering-wheel or gear-lock level. If you own a hybrid vehicle, you may consider investing in a catalytic converter locker
- **Track your car** – get a GPS tracker on your vehicle – if the worst happens, it may help you recover it
- **Be aware of holidays** – motor thefts tend to increase when the clocks change and the nights are darker. They also seem to peak in summer, while people are on holiday and cars can be left unattended. Holidays such as Halloween and Bonfire night are also known for spikes in vandalism
- **Protect your plates** – you can buy number plates that break if somebody tries to steal them. You can also engrave your registration number onto your car to make it harder for thieves who try to change your car's identity

