

Prevent Keyless Car Theft



Richmond Community Safety Partnership, which includes the Council, Richmond Police and other partners is committed to tackling and reducing acquisitive crimes such as theft of motor vehicles.

Many modern vehicles have keyless entry and this has led to an increase in high value cars being stolen in the borough via keyless car theft.

To help you avoid your vehicle being stolen this leaflet provides advice about actions and crime prevention measures you can take to protect your vehicle.



What can I do?

Keep car keys safe

Whilst at home, keep your car keys away from the car to disrupt communication range. Avoid leaving them near your door or window.

Use a signal-blocking pouch

The pouch can block the transmission of the signal from the car key once inside the pouch.

Turn off the fob's wireless signal

Wireless signals on some keyless fobs can be turned off. Look in your car manual to see if this is possible, if not, contact your vehicle manufacturer.

Re-programme your keys

Doing this if you buy a second hand car will mean that a spare key that is not in your possession can not be paired with your car. Contact your local Master Locksmith Association (MLA) approved auto locksmith - www.locksmiths.co.uk/services/auto-locksmith/ for a quote.

On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) Port

Many modern vehicles are fitted with engine management diagnostic ports, which can unlock and start your vehicle. Some thefts involve thieves accessing the port to start the car. If your vehicle has this type of port, consider fitting a lockable cover.

Steering wheel lock

We recommend using a steering wheel, gear lever or clutch pedal security device. These are really effective as they can't be compromised by technology.

Parking

- If you have a garage, use it to secure your vehicle in
- If you park on the driveway, park as close to the property as you can
- If you have more than one vehicle on your driveway, park the less desirable vehicle in front of the more desirable vehicle to block its access

Thatcham Research Consumer Security Rating

Thatcham's consumer security rating keeps drivers informed of the theft risk of new cars and assesses a new vehicle's all-round security. This can be a handy tool to check before purchasing a vehicle. You can access the information via www.thatcham.org/what-we-do/security/consumer-rating/

Alarm system - and fitting a Thatcham rated category 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

Double-check electronic locking

Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away. Thieves will look out for signs that vehicles that have been left unlocked, for example, wing mirrors still being out.

For more information please go the following link on the Metropolitan Police Service website www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/preventing-car-vehicle-theft/