



Car Key Burglaries

In some circumstances burglars are purposely breaking into houses while the occupants are asleep with the sole intention of finding your car keys and stealing your car and any other small portable items they find on the way out.

Before you turn in for the night check that all doors, ground floor windows and easily accessible windows are closed and locked. PVCu doors – don't forget that the door is not fully locked until you have lifted the inside handle, turned the key or thumb-turn, and remember to remove the key and place out of sight but readily available in case of fire. When replacing a Europrofile Lock Cylinder ensure that you get a TS007 three star anti-snap anti-bump lock cylinder. If you have an intruder alarm and can do so, activate the downstairs zone when you go to bed. As a cost effective measure providing a very limited alert there are battery operated PIR sensor alarms that can be sited within the home perhaps near where keys are stored available from companies such as: www.redlinesecurity.co.uk and www.personalalarms.com.

To stop the burglar getting easy access to vulnerable windows and doors towards the rear or side of a property make sure that the boundaries are secure and that side and rear gates are closed and locked.

Ensure that you put your car keys somewhere safe and out of sight, when you return home. Put your car keys in a drawer (preferably one that is noisy to open) or some other secure place, but to avoid any confrontation don't take the car keys to the bedroom with you.

With some car thefts involving key less entry systems thieves will use an amplifiers to boost the signal from the keys within the house even through brick walls to reach the car; this can be prevented by use of a "Faraday bag" such as www.redlinesecurity.co.uk/defender-signal-blocker-with-rpf-police-preferred-specification-vehicle-fob-phone-protection-pouch/.

Use of steering wheel, handbrake and pedal locks are a good visual deterrent to car thieves. Ensure that the product has third party accreditation, such as those on the www.soldsecure.com website.

If you have cars of different values, park the higher value car in your garage. If you are unable to do this, consider parking the lower value car in front of the higher value car, as the thieves are more likely to target high value motor vehicles and will be deterred if they cannot easily drive such a car away from the property with ease.

With high value cars consider the fitting of a tracking system. A word of caution, you get what you pay for, so look for a system that uses RF frequency, 3 or 4G phone networks SIM as well as satellite connection GPS. There are even systems where you can "Geo-fence" the vehicle location so that if it moves beyond this the tracking system is activated.

For further information about Thatcham rated security products please see - www.thatchamfitters.co.uk.

For further advice see: www.essex.police.uk/advice/vehicle-security/