



Preventing the Theft of Cars

High-value modern cars are usually difficult to steal without the keys therefore the thief needs them. As a result of this there have been a number of burglaries where the main attraction is the keys to a car on the driveway, whilst in the house any valuables found can be picked up on the way out.

There are a number of things you can do to protect yourself:

1. Where possible put the car in a **garage**;
2. **Lock the car and close the windows**, a number of thefts of and from vehicles just lately have been from insecure vehicles in car parks or on driveways;
3. **When you remote lock a vehicle from the key fob, check it has actually locked**, faulty fob, low battery, or someone blocking the signal will mean although you think it is locked it is in fact insecure;
4. If you can when parking a high value desirable car on a drive or elsewhere **block it in with a less valuable car** if possible;
5. Consider a **lockable post or gate**; don't keep the key with the car keys though;
6. **Make sure your house is secure**, if you have a UPVC front door or other door with a multi locking system make sure you know how to lock it, a lot of people fail to lock the door correctly – lift the handle and turn the key or thumb turn (always have a key available in case of fire). Make sure access to the rear of the house not open. Close accessible windows and fit security lighting;
7. **If you have an alarm** set the zone where you are not occupying. **If you don't** have a house alarm how about buying a shed alarm, hiding it to cover the area where the car keys are;
8. **Don't** have the keys on display via a window or letterbox; put them in a safe place;
9. Consider fitting a **tracker** to a high value car, it may help with any insurance claims;
10. **If you believe you have an intruder** in your home or attempting to get into your home don't put yourself at risk - dial 999 immediately and get what descriptions and other details that you can.