

Theft without keys

This is quite common and is often linked to vehicles that have 'Keyless Entry' (or "Push-to-Start" buttons). This involves sophisticated software being used to enter a vehicle and start it within a few seconds. This equipment isn't readily available to the criminal, but it is out there.

The process would involve the thief walking round the outside of your house with scanner, looking for the frequency that your car key has. Once it finds this frequency it copies it to a blank key the thief has and then they turn that blank key into a copy of your actual key. They then use this key to open the vehicle, start it and drive it away.

Advice to reduce your chance of having your vehicle stolen by Theft without Keys

- Keep keys secure and away from doors and windows. Invest in ECU Locking software such as 'Ghost' systems.
- Invest in Physical vehicle security, Disk Locks, Barriers for your driveway and using your garage to store your car are all good ways of securing your vehicle physically.
- Invest in a Tracking device, especially if you own a high performance or desirable vehicle.
- Invest in a 'defender faraday bag' this bag holds your car keys and does not allow the keys to transmit out of the bag so that the copying of the key won't be possible.
- **Do not rely on Manufacturers security - its often inadequate**

Security items available

Warwickshire Police doesn't specifically endorse any brand or supplier but we would recommend a number of security products such as house alarms and vehicle security devices.

Yale Smart Home Wireless Burglar Alarm (from £249)

This alarm is simple to install alarm system which is wireless and takes minimal expertise to install. This system allows you to add sensors and even control sockets, lights and door locks from a simple phone based app.



disklok™ (Prices from £109)

Physical security for your vehicle, this covers the vehicle steering wheel and makes it impossible to steer a vehicle once fitted correctly.

Rising bollards (Prices from £150)

Physical security for your vehicle, this fits on your drive way but does require specialist installation, contact your local builder



ECU Immobiliser or CAN BUS Protection (from £399)

This protects your vehicle ECU and prevents unauthorised tampering and illegal copying of your vehicle keys.

www.autowatch.co.uk for more information.



For more information search any of the items above using Google or to discuss further with an officer call 101 and ask to speak to your local beat manager or PCSO.



Vehicle Crime



@AthColesCops



North Warwickshire Police



You may have seen on Social Media or local TV that there has been a recent increase in vehicle thefts



Whether it be via Burglary, Robbery or by simply taking the vehicle without the keys it can be worrying and can promote a great deal of fear about being a victim of crime. We have put some useful information together about the current trends with Vehicle Crime and what you can do to minimise your chances of becoming a victim of Vehicle Crime.

If you would like more information on Crime Prevention then please call your local police station



Burglary

This would involve breaking into a house and stealing the keys to the vehicle, then taking the vehicle.

We have some generic advice to reducing your chances of having your vehicle stolen by burglary

- Invest in a good quality home alarm, preferably monitored.
- Keep keys secure and away from doors and windows.
- If you are leaving your home then take the keys with you, or hand them to a friend or family member who lives away from you.



- Invest in CCTV and external lighting for your home, burglars don't like the light.
- Invest in good quality locks for your doors and natural defences for your home, defensive planting (of plants that aren't that inviting to climb) is a great way of putting the burglar off.
- Invest in physical vehicle security, Disk Locks, Barriers for your driveway and using your garage to store your car are all good ways of securing your vehicle physically.
- Invest in a tracking device, especially if you own a high performance or desirable vehicle.

Robbery (Car Jacking)

This is where violence or threats are used to take a vehicle, in some cases this involves the driver being forced to stop their car and being threatened with violence.

Advice to reduce your chance of having your vehicle stolen by Robbery (Car Jacking)

- Keep your doors locked and windows up.
- If you are concerned drive away immediately as long as it is safe to do so.
- Show extra caution when driving along single lane roads, back roads and country lanes at night or if alone - especially if you drive a high performance/desirable vehicle.
- Invest in a tracking device, especially if you own a high performance or desirable vehicle.
- Be wary of incidents at the side of the road, although probably innocent be aware that some may be 'staged' to get you to stop - be mindful of this.
- If you are forced to stop (after a minor collision) don't get out of your vehicle and talk to the other person through the window. If you are still worried then call the police on 999.
- Don't be tempted to carry weapons with you - this could land you in trouble with the police if stopped.
- Report any suspicious activity you see at the road side make it your job to report it. Always report any attempted Robbery on 999 - we are aware of a few posts on social media where these have not been reported to the police.