

Keyless could be Carless



Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short-range distance of the car.

The theft, also known as 'relay theft', occurs when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by; this unlocks the car and allows the ignition to be started.



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Research



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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

This erases the code from the car key to the car itself. This will mean a spare car key that is not in your possession can no longer be paired with your car leaving it susceptible to theft. 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

Some thefts involve thieves breaking into a vehicle and accessing the OBD port to start the car. Below are a few options that may help secure your vehicle from this method of theft:

- Contact your local dealership or an auto electrician to relocate the OBD port in your vehicle
- Consider the use of a OBD port protective cover or lock guard
- Consider a remote central locking keyless system upgrade or an upgraded immobiliser system to protect your vehicle. This can be very costly and only to be considered for higher end prestige vehicles

Steering wheel lock

Strongly consider reintroducing a steering wheel lock to your vehicle. This can be an effective tool in the fight against keyless thefts, purely for the reason that it cannot be compromised via 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/

Note - As with any additional security for vehicles, try to purchase devices that are:

- Thatcham quality assured - www.thatcham.org
- Sold Secure tested - www.soldsecure.com
- Secured by Design approved - www.securedbydesign.com

For more information, please contact your local Crime Prevention Officer via www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice/our-services/crime-prevention/contact-us