

Stay with
your car as
it defrosts



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Frosty morning warning: do not make your car cosy for criminals!

Every winter, vehicles are stolen from driveways and outside homes when owners leave them running unattended.

Car thieves will be watching the weather forecast and will be out early in the morning on the lookout for vehicles left unattended, and running to thaw out. Modern vehicles are often targeted in this way. While their advanced security technology makes them difficult to steal, it becomes easy if the engine is running and the key is in the ignition - or inside the vehicle in the case of keyless entry/start systems. **There are ways you can beat the frost and stop criminals taking your vehicle:**

- Put on your windscreen covers - or a large piece of cardboard - the night before, to stop your windows frosting up.
- Applying a steering lock to your wheel will deter thieves at any time of the year.
- Allow extra time to defrost your car and remove windscreen covers. Never drive without fully defrosting your windscreen. Frost can obstruct your view when driving, putting you and other road users at risk of harm.
- Stay with your vehicle as you are defrosting it and if you are in a rush, use de-icing spray and a scraper to speed up the process.
- Sit inside your vehicle while the heater de-mists the windscreen and turn on the air conditioning alongside the defrost settings.
- Always lock your vehicle, checking your fob has done its job. Check for signs your vehicle is locked, such as folding door mirrors, flashing headlights/indicators or hearing the alarm engaging.

Remember! Your insurance company might not pay out if you are deemed responsible for the theft of your vehicle. Never leave your engine running with your keys in the ignition.

Stay safe this winter. If you see any suspicious activity around vehicles, please **call us on 101**. This could be someone trying door handles or looking into car windows.

Call us on 999 if you see someone attempting to steal a car or if you feel threatened.



For more vehicle crime prevention advice, search **‘wmp crime prevention’**



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