



How to Avoid Warm-Up Theft This Winter

As temperatures drop in the winter, drivers may be tempted to stay inside and keep warm while they wait for their cars to warm up.

However, car owners may want to think twice before they leave their cars running, unlocked and unattended.

Car thieves are on the lookout for these vehicles warming up in driveways.

Here are some tips from to avoid becoming a victim of warm-up thefts:

- Never leave your vehicle running or leave the keys in the ignition when the vehicle isn't within eyesight. Not even for "just a minute."
- Keep your valuables such as purses, credit cards and cell phones out of sight or in the trunk.
- Roll up the windows and lock the car.
- Do not leave the registration or title in the car. This makes it easier for thieves to dispose of your vehicle and it also makes you a target for identity theft.
- Stay alert when approaching the vehicle. Check around the car for thieves and suspicious persons. Leave as soon as you are concerned for your safety.
- Park your car in busy areas that are properly lighted.
- Install a mechanical locking device that locks to the steering wheel, column or brake. These devices are known as clubs, collars or j-bars.
- Use alarms or anti-theft devices if your vehicle has one.