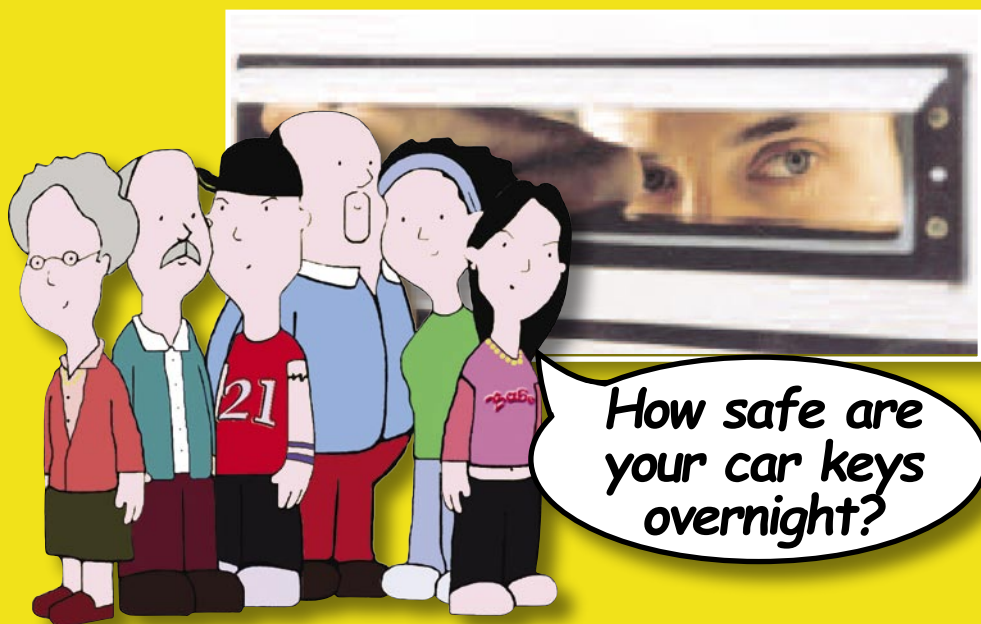


Supporting you...

Introducing the Richmonds

Fishing for car keys



This type of offence has become a trend over recent years, mainly because modern cars are very difficult to steal without the car keys. Burglars intent on stealing the car, which is usually on view in the driveway, will attempt to break into homes looking for car keys.

'Keeping crime out of our borough'

Security tips for your car

Burglaries involving desirable/high value vehicles

One method is to peer through the letterbox and see if the keys have been left within easy reach. It has been known for the thieves to fish for the keys using implements poked through the letterbox and implements have been used in the same manner to hook onto internal door handles which have not been deadlocked and gain entry into the house.

Below is some advice to reduce the risk of this type of offence occurring:

- 1** If possible garage your car over night.
- 2** If you have a burglar alarm, zone the downstairs area overnight.
- 3** If you do not have a burglar alarm consider installing one.
- 4** Keep your house and car keys in separate places.
- 5** Leave your car keys in less obvious areas, out of sight.
- 6** Keep your doors locked even when you are at home. Use the mortice deadlock or, on PVC-U or other enhanced security doors, the fully or double-locked mode especially at night. The majority of the PVC-U type doors are not fully secure unless double locked with the key. If you remove the door keys always have a fire escape plan.
- 7** Be vigilant for people behaving suspiciously around you or your neighbour's homes.
- 8** Avoid confrontations with offenders.
- 9** Consider protecting the side of your premises with fencing and locked gates.
- 10** Please contact your local Crime Prevention Officer for advice concerning additional vehicle security, i.e. immobilisers and driveway alarms as security needs differ.
- 11** Contact the Crime Prevention Officers for advice regarding double-glazing as occasionally the method of entry is by releasing external beading.
- 12** Consider fitting an internal letterbox restrictor.
- 13** Open doors and windows are open invitations.

For more advice, visit www.met.police.uk