

## **December 10, 2024 – Car Theft Prevention Tips Article**

Blaise Kurucz #9165  
43 Division  
Crime Prevention

### **Car Thefts on the Rise in Toronto: Tips to Protect Your Vehicle**

Car thefts continue to be a significant issue across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), with thieves using increasingly sophisticated methods to steal vehicles. As winter sets in, police and insurance companies are urging drivers to take extra precautions to secure their vehicles, especially during the colder months when warming up cars is common practice.

#### **Insurance Companies May Help with Anti-Theft Devices**

Did you know that your car insurance provider might assist with the cost of anti-theft devices? Many companies have budgets allocated for such purposes, offering partial coverage to help protect your vehicle. It's worth contacting your provider to see if they can help with devices like:

- **Immobilizers:** Prevent the engine from starting without the correct key or fob.
- **GPS Trackers:** Allow you to locate your vehicle if it's stolen.
- **OBD-II Locks:** Secure the onboard diagnostic port, blocking thieves from reprogramming your car's electronics.
- **Alarm Systems:** Deter criminals with noise and flashing lights.

#### **Work with Professionals to Safeguard Your Car**

Several businesses across the GTA specialize in enhancing vehicle security. These companies can help relocate certain vulnerable components in your car, making it far more difficult for thieves to bypass your security systems.

## **The Risks of Idling Vehicles**

Many drivers like to warm up their vehicles during the winter, but this practice comes with risks. Even if you take your fob with you after starting the car, the vehicle may still be driven away and will continue running for some time before shutting off.

A better alternative is to install a **remote starter**. This allows your car to warm up while remaining locked, ensuring that it can't be driven without the fob.

## **Stay Vigilant**

Toronto Police Service encourages residents to remain vigilant and take proactive steps to prevent car theft. If you've fallen victim to a theft, report the incident immediately. Working together with local businesses and insurance providers can significantly reduce our risk and help keep your vehicle safe this winter.

For more information on protecting your vehicle, contact your insurance provider or your local Toronto Police Service division.