

MODERN ANTI – THEFT CAR DEVICES

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An anti – theft system is any device or method used to prevent or deter the unauthorized appropriation of items considered valuable. Cars may require anti-theft systems because they are expensive, rather easy to steal, might be left unattended in a carpark. The inappropriate use of a stolen car may cause considerable damage.

The diversity of up-to-date anti-theft car systems is impressive. The most widely-spread are car alarms. The best models flash headlight and honk the horn in addition to sounding a siren. But after years of false alarms people have stopped paying attention to them.

Some car manufactures have pre-installed electronic immobilizing systems that allow the vehicle to operate only with a correctly coded key. Immobilizers interrupt your car's ignition systems when an incorrect key is used. But because they are invisible to thieves, inexperienced criminals may tear apart your steering column before discovering the immobilizer.

Different electronic tracking devices are transmitters hidden in the vehicle which emit signals that are picked up by the police or a monitoring station. A variety of services, such as mapping, vehicle – location if your car is stolen are offered by different companies. These devices are very effective in helping authorities recover vehicles before they can be stripped or chopped up. The principle drawback is the cost: in addition to the high initial cost, a subscription charge must be paid each month.

A hood lock will keep a thief from getting to your car battery cutting the power going to the alarm. It prevents thieves from gaining access to your vehicle's engine compartment. It is standard equipment on vehicles made in the past 20 years.

Kill switches prevent the flow of electricity or fuel to the engine until the switch is activated. Starter disablers are also growing in popularity. They are hidden switches that need to be flipped on for the car to start. For their effectiveness as a security device kill switches are for the most part expensive and easy to install. The limitation is that there is a risk that the driver may accidentally engage them while driving. Improperly installed switches can damage the electrical systems on new cars and have the additional drawback of voiding your new car warranty.

Steering column armored collars prevent thieves from breaking into the steering column to hot-wire the vehicle. Some are installed permanently and others must be installed manually each time the driver leaves the vehicle. They provide an excellent line of defense for all the vehicles.

Whichever anti-theft device you choose you need to periodically check and maintain it, because it can go bad from weather or simple wear and tear.