

IT'S A LOCK OUT!

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([PRWEB](#)) February 8, 2003 -- Few people would like to admit they've done it, yet Green Flag Motoring Assistance responds to 60 calls every day from people who have locked their keys in their car.

Green Flag spokesperson Nigel Charlesworth commented: "It's a surprisingly common mistake, but luckily one that is easily resolved. Our recovery agents are able to gain entry into any make or model of car, and can retrieve the keys in minutes. They can also source new keys if necessary for most vehicles, including those with transponders, so you'll never be left stranded."

But what can people who don't have breakdown cover do? Nigel explained: "The options are often limited. As car security becomes increasingly sophisticated, fewer locksmiths are able to solve the problem. Motorists can try to call out a specialist vehicle locksmith, who will charge around £100 to do the job, or they often call the police. Alternatively they resort to breaking one of the windows to access the keys themselves which is dangerous and inconvenient, not to mention costly."

However, the number of incidents of keys locked in cars is a worrying indication that motorists are not being as careful with their keys as they need to be. Nigel continued: "Car keys left on view, either locked in a car or visible through a house window, can be all too tempting for opportunistic thieves."

Research shows that this method of car theft is on the rise, with more than £7m worth of cars taken using stolen keys last year, a 52 per cent increase since 2000.*

Green Flag offers the following advice to motorists to help them avoid joining the statistics:

Remember to keep keys out of sight. If thieves can take your keys easily they can also take your car.

Don't leave keys near your front door. Thieves will often "fish" for them using a pole pushed through the letterbox. Other favourite hot spots include hall tables, key hooks, handbags and kitchens.

Think of your keys as having the same value as your car - you wouldn't leave several thousand pounds lying around would you?!

Never leave the keys in the ignition, even for a short time. Cars left in driveways or on petrol station forecourts with the keys in the ignition are an open invitation to car thieves.

Don't leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running to defrost the car. Stay with it at all times.

Nigel concluded: "If you do lock your keys in the car, don't attempt DIY methods of opening using coat hangers etc. It's always best to call the professionals to avoid damage to your vehicle."

ENDS



Notes to editors:

*Research conducted by Tracker, April 2002

Green Flag provides roadside rescue and recovery to millions of UK customers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Roadside assistance is carried out by Green Flag recovery agents, who are meticulously vetted and inspected to ensure the highest standards of service. Agents are situated in all UK and European urban and rural locations and close to key road networks.

Green Flag is the partner favoured by the UK's top businesses and affinity bodies. Customers can join Green Flag through arrangements made with their bank, insurer, motor manufacturer or through many affinity partners. This makes Green Flag the leading business-to-business provider of motoring assistance in the UK, and the largest provider of these services to the UK insurance industry.

Press Calls

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