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# WALLINGFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## News Release

**Date:** March 1, 2023

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### **Reminder: Please Lock your Cars!**

The Wallingford Police Department would like to send an advisory to the community regarding stolen motor vehicles. The Wallingford Police Department fielded 24 stolen vehicle complaints year-to-date, which has increased by 17 from the same period last year (a 243% increase). This increase is attributed largely to people leaving their vehicles unlocked and running to warm their vehicles up in the morning while getting ready to leave home for the day.

Thieves across the state are targeting vehicles being left in this vulnerable condition. While we recognize citizens would like their morning commute to be pleasant, if you leave your keys in your vehicle while it is running/ warming up in the morning, there is a risk that your car will be stolen.

The Wallingford Police Department suggests a few things to help protect your property:

1. Lock your car doors when your vehicle is left unattended.
2. Remove any keys/fobs from the vehicle when you are not in it.
3. Remove any expensive/ valuable items from your vehicle if it must be left outdoors.
4. Do not leave your car running with the keys in it while you are not present.
5. Install surveillance cameras on the exterior of your home.
6. Try installing a remote starter kit if your vehicle is not equipped with one if you like to warm your vehicle up in the morning.

The Wallingford Police Department has applied for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Auto Theft and Violence Grant to provide additional resources to combat this rise in motor vehicle thefts. Please report any thefts to us at our routine line (203)294-2800. For any crimes in progress or emergencies call 911.

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