

Personal car park security tips

1. If you can't see 100 feet clearly in front of you, park somewhere else.
2. If you can help it don't park next to a large van or vehicle with a sliding opening side door. Attackers often grab victims and pull them in using this side door so avoid these types of vehicles at all costs. If you have no other option, enter and exit the car via the passenger door.
3. Park as close to the building as you possibly can and park defensively. Reverse park your car into the space so you can make a quick exit if needed.
4. Don't sit in your car and wait for long periods of time, for example checking your phone etc. Get in/ out, lock the door securely and leave the area.
5. A tidy car is a safe car. Remove any items from inside the car including satnav, satnav holder, spare/ lose change etc. even remove jackets off the backseat as a thief may believe you to be hiding something underneath it. Don't forget to get rid of the ring the satnav makes on the windscreen, this is a sure sign the satnav is in the car so don't leave it open to chance.
6. When entering the building take the lift not the stairs (an empty stairwell is an awfully lonely place to be). When in the lift, don't stand in the corner. Position yourself directly in front of the doors near the button panel. Lifts often have CCTV and alarms you can press in an emergency.
7. Check it's locked and check again. Criminals are now using remote locking jammers which interfere with the signal from your key which locks the car, meaning whilst you believe the car is locked, it is not, and as soon as you exit the area they take the car. Check the car is locked using the handle to be sure!
8. Have your keys ready. People are often attacked as they stand next to their car rummaging in their bag for their keys. Have them out before you leave the office and once in the car move away quickly.
9. Don't talk on your mobile or text when you're walking through the car park, it leaves you distracted and an easy victim. Be aware of your surroundings and stay safe
10. Always lock the doors when you are inside the car. Even if you're only waiting for a minute.
11. If you feel you are being followed quickly remove yourself to an area of safety. It is always better to be safe than sorry. It is very likely the other person is completely innocent but by removing yourself from the area towards other people you are not taking any risk.
12. If someone is close to you and making you feel uncomfortable, turn around, look them directly in the eyes, and yell at them firmly to STOP. Then run towards people/ safety and inform others of your situation.
13. If there is someone in the car park who you don't recognise/ don't trust report them immediately to security.
14. Always try and walk to your car with other members of staff who you trust. Avoid being on your own when you go to your car.
15. If you don't feel safe walking by yourself, ask a security guard to walk you to your car.
16. Check the backseat/ inside the car before you get in.
17. Don't lock up by yourself- never be the last person to leave by yourself.
18. If an unknown person asks for your assistance do not be afraid to get a guard to help them instead of you. Inform them that you are going to get a guard and you will be right back, don't be afraid to offend them. Serial killer Ted Bundy would often pose with a walking stick or cast and ask women for help, then abduct them and murder them. STOP BEING NICE AND PUTTING YOUR OWN SAFETY AT RISK. Better to go and get help from another person than put yourself at risk.
19. Trust your instincts over anything. Don't let feeling rude or offending someone put your own safety at risk.
20. Mark/ etch your car to deter thieves. Consider installing a steering lock too! Adding security devices will not only deter thieves and make it hard to steal your car, it may help it be returned to you if the worst happens.