

## **Residents of Rock Hill**

Every 28 seconds, a vehicle is stolen in the United States. In urban areas, it's an even more pervasive problem.

With the arrival of winter, please remember to think security instead of comfort when warming up your car before driving or leaving your car unattended and running. We've all done it; gone out to our car, turned on the engine, and left the car to warm up while we pop back in the house or workplace. Nearly half of motorists - 47 per cent - admit to leaving their car unattended on frosty mornings while it warms up.

There have been recent thefts in our area where vehicles have been stolen while the vehicle is left running, keys in ignition, unattended. Criminals do target residential streets and some businesses looking for this exact type of opportunity. One recent local auto theft occurred on a residential street at 8am on a weekday morning.

So tempting though it is in cold weather, never leave your vehicle with the engine running to warm up while you nip back inside, even if it is only for a couple of minutes, as it only takes seconds for thieves to strike.

So, stay with your vehicle while it warms up and secure it when running into a business even for a short time. This will ensure that **you** are the one who drives away in your warm car, **not the thief**.

**Rock Hill Police Department**