



Bainbridge Township Police Dept.

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PRESS RELEASE

Residents are probably aware of a recent rash of car thefts targeted toward some Hyundai and Kia cars. Certain vehicles have been stolen at a higher rate than other vehicles due to a coordinated effort on social media. Criminals have been targeting Hyundai vehicles without engine immobilizers.

The targeted vehicles include specific Hyundai vehicles without push-button ignitions and immobilizing anti-theft devices. On certain vehicles, this technology did not come standard.

- If the vehicle has a push-button start, it will have an immobilizer, however
- If the vehicle has a key ignition, it may not have an immobilizer.

Hyundai issued free anti-theft software upgrade for affected vehicles, which is designed to prevent the vehicles from starting during a method of theft popularized on TikTok and other social media channels.

However, there is a group of 2011-2022 model year, key ignition vehicles that cannot accommodate the software upgrade. In light of this, and thanks to efforts of an interested resident who contacted the Bainbridge Police Department, we've been in direct contact with Hyundai Motors America.

HMA has sent the Bainbridge Township Police Department a number of Steering Wheel Locks, the use of which should mitigate the chances of thieves being able to victimize these owners and steal their vehicles.

BPD will make these steering wheel locks available to residents on a first come, first served basis until they are gone. Owners of affected Hyundai vehicles should contact the Bainbridge Police Department at (440) 543-8252 to arrange a pick-up of the lock. Proof of Bainbridge residence and vehicle ownership are required.