

Car Theft Bulletin: TikTok Challenge



Hyundai and Kia are rolling out software updates to help prevent auto thefts tracing back to a challenge on TikTok, which teaches offenders how to break into older Kia and Hyundai models.

The updates are free for millions of Hyundai and Kia models. Vehicles that are missing a key anti-theft device are eligible for the software update. Kia and Hyundai will start software updates in February of 2023, with subsequent phases over the next several months.

For information on scheduling a software update, vehicle owners can contact Hyundai at 800-633-5151 & Kia at 800-333-4542

Eligible Hyundai Vehicles:

- 2017-2020 Elantra
- 2015-2019 Sonata
- 2020-2021 Venue

Eligible Kia Vehicles:

- Kia Models from 2010-2021 with a “steel key” and a “turn-to-start” ignition system are at a higher risk of theft.

Prevention Tips:

- Car prowls are crimes of opportunity! Never leave bags/valuables in view.
- Park your vehicle in a driveway, secure garage, or well-lit street parking space.
- Use a mechanical anti-theft steering wheel lock device for your car or truck.
- Consider installing a catalytic converter anti-theft device or cage. Contact your trusted auto shop or dealer for options and costs.
- Keep an eye on your parked car and ask neighbors to do the same. If you see suspicious behavior, please report it by calling 9-1-1. Finally, if you can safely do so, please note a description of suspects or any vehicles involved, including license plate number and direction of travel, if they leave before police arrive.



Crime Prevention classes, tips & trainings available at seattle.gov/crime-prevention