Microwave Storage

Should you store devices in a microwave oven?

A new trend on social media is making some experts nervous. Some social media influencers are encouraging users to keep their electronic devices in their microwave oven overnight.

“People could be tracking your phone!” warns one influencer in a video that went viral. “But if you keep it inside the microwave, they can’t connect to your phone, because the microwave is designed to stop invisible waves from getting through.”

Another influencer puts his car keys in the microwave oven as soon as he gets home. “I love my ride and I want to protect it. Wannabe car thieves can amplify the signal from your electronic key, and use it to start your car. But when the keys are in the microwave, the signal can’t get out. Trust me.”

Although this technique can be effective, experts suggest there are more convenient ways to secure your privacy. “I have heard too many horror stories,” wrote an automotive locksmith who we reached out to for comment. “It is not safe to store your keys in the microwave oven, because someone might accidentally cook them. This could melt your keys and break the microwave oven. It could even lead to a house fire.”

Instead, experts recommend using a “Faraday bag,” which is a small pouch with built-in metal mesh, like the kind you might find in the door of a microwave oven. These are available to purchase for about $25. You can also wrap your phone in two layers of aluminum foil for a lower-cost solution. This will block signals from getting in or out, while keeping your microwave oven free to do what it was designed to do—cook food.