

A guide to avoid becoming a victim of vehicle crime



Working for a safer Wycombe



Vehicle crime can be a big worry for motorists. Protect your car or van by following our simple advice – most vehicle crime can be prevented, so DON'T GIVE CRIMINALS AN EASY RIDE.



Trust locks, not luck: Lock doors, close windows fully and shut the sunroof every time you leave your car, however long you are leaving it for. Consider using a steering wheel lock where possible too.



Key values: Never leave the ignition key in your vehicle whilst it is unattended. Keep your keys safe and out of sight from doors and windows when in the home.



Perfect Parking: When parking at home, if you have a garage – use it. If not, always try to park in a well lit, open location where if possible, you can still see your vehicle from your home. When parking away from home, always try and park your car in an attended car park. Look for a public car park which is part of the police approved 'Park Mark' scheme or 'Secure Car Park's' accreditation.



Do not display: Leave nothing in sight that may tempt a thief – even an old coat or plastic bag is enough to encourage them to look further. Always remove the stereo where you can and never leave the vehicle's documents inside!



Be alarmed: Install an alarm to deter thieves from not only stealing your car, but also from taking items inside it. You can request more information about alarms, immobilisers and other security devices by phoning the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number on 101.



Sat Nav – would you be lost without it?: Does the 'sucker mark' left give you away? Under the seat or in the glove box does not fool a criminal – these are the first places they will look. Always take your satellite navigation system with you.



Make your mark: Protect valuable items you often take in your vehicle by marking them with your registration number or postcode; use an ultra-violet pen, or forensic property marking kit such as Selecta DNA which are available to buy from the District's Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.



Immobilise thieves: Make a note of the make, model and serial number of equipment used in your vehicle, such as sat nav or stereo. Keep this information somewhere safe. You could also register the details online for FREE at www.immobilise.com, the UK National Property Register.



Your number's up: If your number plates are stolen, report it to the police immediately. Number plates are often taken to be used on other vehicles to commit further crimes such as petrol theft and speeding. You can help

prevent yours from being stolen by using tamper proof screws. These are available from most DIY stores, but you could also get a pair for free, by telephoning your local neighbourhood policing team on 101.



Platinum steal: Theft of catalytic converters to recover the parts and precious metals they contain is on the increase. Taller vehicles (4x4s) are particularly vulnerable as the converters are more accessible and, because they tend to have larger engines, they contain more of the precious metals too. Bear this in mind when parking, how easy would it be to access yours?

For further information and advice about vehicle crime prevention, please visit:

www.wycombe.gov.uk/communitysafety or
www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Alternatively call **Wycombe District Council's Community Safety Team** on **01494 421117**; or speak to your local neighbourhood policing team on **101**.

The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership are now on Twitter too – follow at **www.twitter.com/wycombedcbesafe**

Remember: Most criminals are opportunists. Follow our advice to help outsmart thieves and limit their opportunity to steal.



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