

## A guide to avoid becoming a victim of vehicle crime

Being a victim of vehicle crime can be distressing. More than 80 per cent of people whose cars are broken into or stolen are emotionally affected.

Vehicle crime also causes victims a lot of inconvenience — you could be without a car for weeks, waiting for the garage to make repairs or for your insurer to pay. That's why your vehicle's security features should be as important as any of its other features.

Vehicle crime is often the result of criminals seeing opportunities and taking them. But you can easily outsmart the car thief by following the simple advice given in this leaflet.

**Most vehicle crime can be prevented. Don't give criminals an easy ride.**

### **According to the British Crime Survey**

there were 1,731,000 vehicle crimes committed during 2005-06. Follow the vehicle safety information in this leaflet and make sure you don't become a statistic.

For further advice and information on securing your vehicle, visit the Hampshire Constabulary website at:

**[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)**

Additional contacts:

**Sold Secure** — for a list of recognised security products: [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com)

**Crimestoppers** — if you have any information on car crime: [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

**Immobilise** — to register your valuables in case of loss or theft: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

**Association of British Insurers (ABI)** — for information on insurance group ratings and vehicle security: [www.abi.org.uk](http://www.abi.org.uk)

For details on the Park Mark™ scheme go online to [www.saferparking.com](http://www.saferparking.com)



Vehicle crime accounts for more than a quarter of all recorded crime in the UK and costs the taxpayer more than £3 billion a year. Nationally, vehicle crime has dropped by 51 per cent since 1997, but you can help drive down vehicle crime in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight even further.

Most car criminals are opportunists. By following the tips in this leaflet you can outsmart car thieves and limit their opportunity to steal your valuables or vehicle.

### Do not display

Remove all valuables from your car when you park. Even an old coat or a plastic bag left can tempt a thief.



### Key values

Keep your keys safe. Never leave the ignition key in your vehicle while it is unattended.

### Perfect parking

If you have a garage, use it. If not, always try to park in a well lit, open location. Use secure car parks displaying the official Park Mark™ sign.



### Trust locks, not luck

Lock all doors, close all windows and shut the sunroof every time you leave your car – however briefly. Use a steering wheel lock.



### Be alarmed

Install an alarm to deter thieves from not only stealing your car, but also taking items from it.

### Call a halt to car theft

Fit an immobiliser (cars built before 1995 may not be fitted with these devices). Electronic engine immobilisers prevent your car from starting and are the best way to stop thieves.

### Keep track of your vehicle

If you own a high-value or rare car, arrange to have a vehicle tracking system fitted. This equipment can help to locate a car after it has been stolen.



### Deal with your wheels

Use locking wheel nuts. They are cheap, easy to fit and stop thieves from taking your wheels.



### Etch to protect

Have your vehicle's registration number or the last seven digits of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etched on to all glass surfaces, including the headlights.

### Make your mark

Protect valuable items you often take in your car by marking them with your registration number or postcode using an ultraviolet pen.

### Sat-nav – would you be lost without it?



Given the chance, car thieves will make a beeline straight for your satellite navigation equipment. So follow these tips to keep your sat-nav safe:

- Make a note of the make, model and serial number of the equipment and keep this information somewhere safe – not in the car. You should also register these details online at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- If your sat-nav is portable, take it with you when you leave the car.
- Do not leave your sat-nav in the glove compartment because this is the first place thieves will look.
- Remember to remove the support cradle and suction pads from the car.
- Wipe away any suction-pad marks left on the windscreen or dashboard – telltale signs to thieves that you're a sat-nav owner.