



RUNWAY

VEHICLE CRIME PREVENTION

Introduction

Vehicle crime accounts for approximately 20% of all reported crime in Nottinghamshire. Car crime can be distressing and often results in major inconvenience while you await repairs or insurance clearance. Vehicle crime is often opportunist and taking simple steps to secure your vehicle can prevent most car crime.

The following tips fall within the two categories:

- ❑ Prevent theft of your vehicle
- ❑ Prevent theft from your vehicle.

Sources of further information and advice are also included.

Prevent theft of your vehicle

Good practice

- If you have a garage, use it, and always lock both your car and the garage
- Keep your car keys in a safe place at all times, away from doors, windows and letter boxes, so that anyone breaking in or reaching through the letter box cannot steal your car too
- Lock all doors and close all windows and sunroof every time you leave your car, even if only for a few moments
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running on the driveway, e.g. to warm it up on icy mornings
- Always remove the ignition key and lock your car when paying at a petrol station or just popping into the local shop
- Use secure car parks, preferably one of the police-approved 'Secured Car Parks'. A list of Secured Car Parks in Nottinghamshire is provided on the Nottinghamshire Police website at <http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/docs/reports/ar02/oppstrat.htm>
- When a secure car park is not appropriate, avoid places that are dark, unfrequented, hidden and with several escape routes; park in well-lit areas.

Security devices

- Fit a Thatcham approved security device such as an electronic immobiliser (through a main dealer or accredited installer) and a mechanical immobiliser (such as a steering wheel lock). More details are available on the Thatcham website at www.thatcham.org
- Have your car's registration number etched on to all glass surfaces, including the headlamps and make a note of its chassis number
- Consider fitting a tracker device, especially if you own a more expensive model

- Contact the Vehicle Security National Helpline on 0870 550 2006 or the Sold Secure Helpline on 1327 264 687 or www.soldsecure.com for more information
- The Vehicle Systems Installation Board, Tel: 01708 340 911, can provide a list of accredited installers, or visit their website at www.vsib.co.uk

Prevent theft from your vehicle

The above tips still apply. However, there are additional steps you can take to prevent theft from your vehicle:

- Never leave anything on show in your car, such as a mobile phone, laptop computer, CDs, cassettes, briefcase, shopping bags, or private mail with your address on it. Even an old shabby coat may attract an opportunist thief
- If you cannot carry items with you when you leave your car, then lock them in the boot
- Never leave credit cards, cheque book or vehicle registration documents in the glove compartment
- Display the bright yellow 'Forget It!' card when you leave your car unattended. These cards are available from various police stations in Rushcliffe, notably West Bridgford and Bingham. The card warns thieves that your vehicle has been emptied of all items of valuables
- Car stereos are a prime target. Use a stereo with a removable front panel or security code, and always remember to remove it whenever you leave your car. Consider marking the stereo permanently with your car registration number
- Wheels are often the target for car thieves, so fit locking wheel nuts
- Consider security marking, with your postcode, all the valuables that you regularly take in your car.

Further information

The following websites, among others, provide further information:

Secure Your Motor: www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk
 Car Crime Websites: www.uk250.co.uk/uk/search/for/car+crime
 Vehicle Crime: www.crimereduction.gov.uk/vc_index.htm
 Community Safety: www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/communitysafety/vehicle.htm