

# Vehicle Security Fact Sheet

Vehicles are usually targeted by opportunist thieves who are experts at breaking into cars quickly and efficiently and removing your property in just a few moments. The few seconds it can take to break into a car can cause a lot of damage, expense and inconvenience to the owner which, in many cases, could have been avoided had a few simple steps been taken to protect yourself.

This fact sheet is designed to raise awareness and remind you to take a few moments to protect your property.

## Top Tips

### Remove all items from your vehicle

Don't leave anything on view in your car. Even an old coat on the back seat might attract a thief to break into your car to see if there is anything in the pocket. If you can't take it with you then lock it out of sight in the boot, before you reach the parking area.

Never leave cheque books, credit and debit cards, driving documents, personal correspondence and mobile phones on view.

### While Driving

When in a 30mph zone, lock all doors and when out of the 30mph area unlock the doors.

### Lock it

Lock all doors and windows, not forgetting the sunroof, every time you leave your car even if it is only for a few minutes.

### Keys

Take the ignition key out even when the car is parked in your drive or garage and always set the immobiliser. Follow this routine even when filling up with petrol or just popping into the newsagents. If you do not have an immobiliser consider having one fitted.

Always keep your car keys in a safe place at home, away from windows and doors and preferably in a locked cupboard or cabinet. At night, consider taking them to bed with you!

### Music Systems

Always remove these if you can. Whether removable or not, all equipment should be marked both visibly and permanently with the vehicle registration number. Make a note of the serial number and keep it in a safe place.



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## Satellite Navigation Advice

- Where it's portable, keep it safe by taking it, together with the support cradle and suction pads when you leave the car.
- Wipe away any suction pad marks left on the windscreen or dashboard, as thieves will look out for these.
- Don't leave the equipment in the glove compartment - thieves will usually check there first.
- Mark your sat nav equipment system with your postcode and house number, or your vehicle registration number or another unique number using special security markers.
- Make a note of the make, model and serial number of the equipment and keep the note somewhere safe - not in the car! Consider using a forensic marking kit.

## Parking Advice

Below you will find information on protecting your car when it is parked:

- If you have a garage use it.
- Remember to lock it. More than half of all car thefts occur in the vicinity of the home.
- When away from home, or if you do not have a garage, always try to park in a well-lit, open location. When parking in a public car park look for one that is well supervised, with restricted entry and exit points, good lighting and security cameras . Avoid dark corners.
- Look out for a car park displaying the 'Parkmark' logo. This scheme aims to make car parks safer, more attractive places by setting high crime prevention standards of internal design, layout and management. Those measuring up are entitled to display the official 'Parkmark' sign.



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