

Vehicle security Information booklet

Altogether
safer

Safe Durham Partnership



www.durham.gov.uk/vehiclesecurity

Vehicle security

For most people a car is more than just a quick way to get from A to B, it is an essential part of their lives. It makes sense to spend a minute or two making sure your car doesn't become a target of crime.

Car crime is an opportunist crime – without the opportunity a thief cannot take your belongings or your car.

You have a part to play in helping to reduce the opportunity for car crime by being careful and putting into practice some simple and cheap security measures.

**Think now!
Don't be wise after the event!**



Don't display your valuables

Never leave anything on display when you park your car, even if you are only leaving your car for a few minutes. If you can't carry your valuables with you, store them in the boot, not the glove box.

Sat Nav

Today, satellite navigation systems (Sat Navs) are the items most often stolen from cars.

Here are some tips to help keep your Sat Nav safe:

- Make sure you remove your Sat Nav every time you leave your car and take it with you. Do not leave it in your glove box.
- Remove the cradle from the windscreen. Leaving a cradle on view can make thieves think a Sat Nav may be stored somewhere inside the vehicle.
- Wipe away the mark that is left on the windscreen when the Sat Nav and the cradle are removed. Thieves sometimes look for the mark as a sign that you have left a Sat Nav somewhere inside the vehicle.



Car parks



Always try to park your car in an attended car park or in a car park

that is part of the police-approved 'Park Mark' scheme. Never leave a car door unlocked or a window or sunroof open – even when just going into a shop for a moment or two.

General parking

Never leave car keys in your car. Never leave your vehicle unlocked, even if you are only going to pay for petrol at a garage. Double-check that all car doors, windows, sunroof and boot are locked before leaving it.

Parking at home

Always use your garage if you have one. Always lock your car and your garage. If you don't have a garage, try to park in a well-lit, open place.

Garages

We all take a great deal of care securing our houses but we also leave our property in a garage. Think about how secure your garage is too!

- Make sure that you fit a good lock on your garage door and use it; the most expensive lock doesn't stop a burglar if it isn't locked!
- Fit garage windows with a grille and ensure screw heads are not visible on hinges.
- Never leave your garage open and unattended, even if you are just popping into the house.

- If you leave items such as bicycles in your garage, ensure they are security marked and secure them to the wall of the garage.
- Install a 'Dusk till Dawn' low energy security light to illuminate your garage entrance.



Steering locks

Remove the car keys and use a steering wheel lock – even when parking in your own driveway or garage.

Immobilisers

Electronic engine immobilisers stop your car from starting and are the best way to stop thieves. They should be professionally fitted by an approved installer.

Car alarms

Car alarms can deter thieves from not only stealing your car, but also taking things from it. They should be fitted by a professional.

Locking wheel nuts

These are cheap and easy to fit. They stop thieves from taking your wheels.

Etching

Have your car registration number or the last 7 digits of your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etched onto all windows, both windscreens and your headlamps. Mark all your car equipment, like your car stereo, with your vehicle registration number.

Winter mornings

Frosty mornings often bring a spate of car thefts as car owners leave their vehicles unattended with the engines running to warm them up and defrost the windows. It takes less than ten seconds to steal a car in these circumstances. Don't give car thieves the opportunity to steal your car.

Useful contacts

Durham County Council

www.durham.gov.uk/crimeprevention

www.durham.gov.uk/vehiclesecurity

☎03000 26 00 00

Durham Constabulary

www.durham.police.uk

☎101 (non-emergency)

Crimestoppers

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

☎0800 555 111

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue

www.ddfra.co.uk

☎0845 305 8383

Victim Support

www.victimsupport.org.uk

☎0845 30 30 900



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