

WILTSHIRE POLICE

Keeping you informed

Don't become a victim - Protect yourself against Vehicle Crime

There has been an increase in the number of thefts of, and from, vehicles reported to Wiltshire Police. Too many people think that if someone wants to break into or steal their car, there's nothing they can do about it. By taking some time to think about security and taking some simple measures, you really can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of vehicle crime.

Offences are committed both during the day and at night, so please be especially aware of the need to keep your vehicle as secure as possible at all times, and remove property from within.

- Never keep anything on display in your vehicle; even coats can be a target as the thieves believe they may contain wallets.
- Park your car as near to your home as possible, preferably in a well lit area, using a driveway or garage if possible.
- Remove Satellite Navigation systems and clean away suction marks on the window.
- If you own a van, make sure you remove tools overnight and display an appropriate sign in the rear window making it clear that all tools have been removed.
- Do not leave handbags and wallets in the vehicle.
- Do not leave laptops, mobile phones, satellite navigation systems, handbags, wallets, credit cards, cheque books or vehicle documents in your car. Take them with you when you leave the vehicle or if it impracticable to do so - place them in the boot and ensure electronic equipment is completely switched off.
- Leave your glove box open to show there is nothing in it.
- Double-check that doors, windows, sunroof and boot are locked before leaving, and put your aerial down to stop it being vandalised.
- Consider marking all your valuables, like your car stereo, with your vehicle registration number or consider registering your property on sites such as www.immobilise.com.
- Burglars will steal car keys with the intent of stealing the vehicle either at the same time, or returning later to do so. Do not leave keys in obvious places, especially a key rack or on the hall table. Consider taking them to bed with you at night.

For further information about securing your vehicle and other crime reduction advice please visit:
www.direct.gov.uk/letskeepcrimedown

Always be aware of any strangers in your area who appear to be behaving suspiciously. Record descriptions of such people and any vehicles that they may have with them and contact the Police on 0845 408 7000 or dial 999 in an emergency. Remember that you can also contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 where information can be anonymously.

Further Crime Prevention Advice can be obtained by contacting the Crime Prevention Officers –

David Budd
Trowbridge Police Station
David.budd@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Amanda Baldwin
Salisbury Police Station
Amanda.baldwin@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk