

Van and tool theft

Prevent your vehicle from becoming a target for thieves



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Van and tool theft A5 11-23



If you use a van for work, one of your biggest concerns is likely to be its theft, or of someone breaking in to steal goods or equipment. Vehicle criminals will always go for soft targets that might offer high reward and, sadly, the combination of valuable tools and often-poor security makes van theft too tempting a choice for many criminals. Of course, the ideal situation would be for you to park your van in a locked, alarmed garage every evening, but that's unlikely to happen in the real world. However, there are plenty of other precautions you can take to reduce the risk of theft.

- Always lock doors and close the windows when you're away from your vehicle, even for a short time.
- Don't leave any valuables such as phones or sat-navs visible, and definitely never leave the keys in the van.
- Whenever possible, remove tools, stock and other equipment from the van, especially when leaving it overnight.
- Park in busy, well-lit areas.
- Visible security features can be a strong deterrent, so consider steering or handbrake locks.
- If you have an invisible security device such as a tracker or an alarm, make sure that prospective thieves know about it by placing a warning sticker on your van - it can be more than enough to put them off.
- Even the smallest precautions can help, such as fitting locking wheel nuts, a removable stereo or a lockable fuel filler cap.
- Many vans will come with an alarm fitted as standard, ensure the vehicle alarm is set when it is unattended.
- Consider fitting a vehicle alarm and immobiliser – many insurance companies will reduce premiums for this measure

For more crime prevention advice please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team or visit:

www.derbyshire.police.uk