



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA



Vehicle and Motorcycle Security



Motor Vehicles are for many of us, the main mode of transport of which we can rely heavily on in everyday life. But what would happen if your vehicle suddenly disappeared or was broken into? Whilst we can't always prevent it there are simple steps that we can all take to reduce our chances of becoming a victim of car crime.

GENERAL

- Utilise your car garage/ underground parking if available.
- Lock any driveway, garage, or underground parking doors, shutters and gates.
- Consider using an alarm for your garage or gates.
- Ensure suitable lighting is in place. Park under working street lights.
- Utilise a driveway parking post to block your vehicle in, if available.



KEYS

- Vehicle Key and fobs should be out of sight and reach.
- Don't place keys near to a letterbox or door. Fishing with a stick and hook through the letterbox has been a common method of car key theft.
- Ensure your doors are double locked, look out for lights flashing, wing mirrors folding in and locks/alarm sound.
- Fobs should be placed in a "Faraday pouch" (Secure by Design accredited). Remember to include spare keys. These pouches if used correctly should block the signal to/from your keys.



VEHICLE SECURITY

- Lock and secure your vehicle when not in use (driveway, fuel station forecourt). Ensure windows and sunroofs are closed.
- Remove all valuables i.e personal belongings – car ownership information, money, and electronics. When using the car, don't keep valuables (handbags/ electronics) in view and on the passenger seat, especially during the warmer weather where you may have your windows down.
- Do not leave the car unattended when engine is running (i.e defrosting vehicle). Your insurance may not pay out if your vehicle is stolen in this scenario.
- Position your vehicle in such a manner as to make it difficult for thieves to drive off quickly.
- Park in a busy street where street parking is available.
- Fit theft resistant number plate fittings – stolen number plates are commonly used to hide the identity of stolen vehicles. Use one-way clutch head screws to secure plates.
- Consider purchasing a Secured By Design steering wheel lock such as Disklok.
- A security box can be fitted over the pedals to prevent thefts when the vehicle is parked up.
- Consider fitting a tracker, these devices can alert you when your car is active and if it's travelling in a new area.

CRIME TYPES

Relay Theft

Vehicles fitted with a smart or passive key (keyless entry) are susceptible to relay theft. This key system allows you to gain entry and start your vehicle without the need to interact with your vehicle's key. Criminals use specialist equipment that has the ability to extend the signal from the car to the key so that it appears to the car that the key is present. Your vehicle is most vulnerable overnight, particularly if parked on your driveway and visible without added security (i.e gates) or directly outside your home. The whole process can take around 60 seconds to complete.

Keep the car updated with the latest software, many manufacturers are now updating their in-car security systems to stay ahead of these attacks.

Key Programming

Key programming is being used by criminals to assign a new key to vehicles, by plugging a device into the On Board Diagnostic port (OBD) of the vehicle. The OBD port will in most cases be located in the driver's foot well. Criminals will gain entry into your vehicle then plug into this port and programme a blank key to the vehicle. Many vehicle types can also be started via the OBD port using the relevant electronic equipment.

Consider an OBD lock guard professionally fitted.

Electronic OBD security is available – seek the main dealer's advice

Catalytic Converter Theft

The precious metals used in catalytic converters such as rhodium, platinum and palladium has led to an increase in their theft. Cars that are most often targeted are hybrid vehicles as these vehicles have two power sources (electric and petrol or diesel) so the catalytic converter is used less frequently - the metals are less likely to corrode, meaning they are worth more and therefore more attractive to thieves. Vans and SUV's are particularly at risk, as the ride height makes access to the exhaust system beneath them easier.

Consider fitting a Secure By Design accredited shield, fitting a tilt alarm or register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker.

Before owning, check for cloning

Ask seller for registration number, make, model and MOT test number, check that these details match with information that DVLA hold. Check MOT status, history and any vehicle recalls.

Ask to view V5C certificate (Log book) and make sure it is DVL watermarked and details in the log book match the vehicle details given. Check VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) and engine number, make sure they match details on log book.

Check a used vehicle you're buying - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Theft of Vehicle Whilst In use

Driving a car does not eliminate someone from stealing your car. Drive with the doors locked, especially when in traffic and ensure that you have sufficient space between your car and the vehicle in front. If there has been a collision from behind, pull over somewhere safe, where there are people. Only exit the vehicle if you feel safe to do so. Lock and secure your vehicle. If you are suspicious or feel threatened, contact 999 and ask for police assistance.

Protect Motorcycle, Moped or Scooter

Utilise a disk lock to secure the front brake disc or a D lock on the front wheel to prevent it being wheeled/moved easily. You should also consider a grip lock installed onto the brake and throttle controls.

Chain lock your back wheel (Front wheel can be removed) and secure onto a ground anchor or an item that cannot be moved i.e (bike rack pole) and in view of CCTV. Placing your bike under a cover can instantly make your bike less attractive to thieves. Add a 'kill Switch' which can prevent the bike from starting unless activated. Never leave any loose belongings with the bike, i.e. helmets etc.



The advice in this booklet is for guidance only, all products recommended are Secure By Design accredited and form part of the Police Preferred Specification Scheme. To find out more information about the different secure by design products, visit the SBD website on: **www.securedbydesign.com**

Police Emergency – **999**

Police Non-Emergency – **101**

Crime Stoppers (anonymous reporting) – **0800 555 111**

Online Reporting Form (for issues of a non-serious nature):
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms>

Text Relay – **1800 1101** for deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers. (Must already be registered for this service).

Victim Support Scotland -
0800 160 1985

For more crime prevention advice, visit to our website **www.scotland.police.uk** or follow our social media pages

Facebook:
@policescotland

Twitter:
@PoliceScotland

