

Crime prevention advice for Van Security



Here are some simple reminders on how to lessen the risk of a theft. These may seem somewhat basic, but they can be surprisingly easy to overlook during the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Van Unlocked Don't Leave Your and Unattended

Whether it is on the road outside a customer's house, loading or unloading, or on the way home calling quickly into at a shop, leaving your van unlocked will leave it vulnerable to opportunistic thefts, not to mention invalidating some insurance policies.

Keep Windows Closed

As above and can be easily overlooked, especially in the summer.

Steel Window Grills/Window Tints

No matter how secure your door locks are, window glass still remains a weak link. Steel window grills and blanks not only provide a visual deterrent, but also a physical deterrent and can be easily installed.

Chain & Padlock Items to the Inside of the Van

Run a chain through your tools and equipment handles and secure it to a strong anchor point within the vehicle. It might seem extreme, but it will make life harder for any prospective thief, ensuring that they cannot grab and run off with any items.

Property Mark Tools and Equipment

Mark your equipment with your postcode plus the house number or first 2 letters if a house name or you can put on your company name. Visibly marking items to make them unique is a good deterrent and this can be done in a number of ways such as stencil, etching, paint, permanent marking pens etc. In addition you can also mark invisibly in a separate area such as with a UV pen or a forensic solution such as Smartwater, SelectaDNA, micro dots etc.

Parking

When working at a location try and park as near to the property you are working at as possible.

Lock your vehicle, even if you are have to go to it a number of times.

Be vigilant, if you see anyone acting suspiciously near your vehicle make a note of the details, including any vehicle registration numbers and if concerned report it to the police on 101. If safe to do so take a photograph.

Empty your vehicle every night and lock your tools and equipment away in a secure area. Put a sticker on your van stating tools are not kept in the van overnight.

If possible park your vehicle in a garage or secure area.

If you have to park your van outside, have it as near to your house or company unit as possible.

Sensor beams placed in strategic locations will alert you to anyone going near to the van on your property and some systems can also text or call your phone.



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Number Plates

Offenders take vehicle registration plates for a number of reasons, such as stealing fuel from a petrol/diesel station or to put on a vehicle that is used in a crime. Anti-tamper number plate screws are available free of charge from Neighbourhood Watch and your local policing team.

If you ever have any of your plates taken or they may have come off whilst driving ALWAYS report to the police on 101 so that they are aware in case they are linked to a crime.

Locks/Alarms

New vans can feature an array of security devices and as you would expect older vans are not so secure. There are however a number of ways to enhance the security of your vehicle, including installing an additional independent system, as some models are open to devices that override the vans system and allow access by offenders.

Thatcham category 1 alarms are high tech systems on the market and can be retrofitted to almost any vehicle. Whilst not cheap, they are very effective at preventing would be thefts.

Slamlocks

These automatically lock a van door when it's slammed shut. The idea is to prevent opportunist thieves entering the vehicle when it has been left unattended for a short period of time.

Deadlocks

A deadlock is 'a mechanical device fitted to a vehicle door. It operates by launching a bolt into a receiver fitted to the opposing body section when operated by an external key'. Deadlocks are extremely difficult to pick due to the fact that they have no spring mechanism that can be forced open. Anyone wanting to open these locks needs a key to open or shut them.

Van Lock Protection Plates

While not technically a lock, it is possible to source specially made steel plates that encase your existing van locks to prevent thieves from trying to drill or prise them out. Each of these locks are relatively inexpensive to buy and are available from a range of online suppliers or fitters.

Van Vaults

Van Vaults are high security steel storage boxes designed for commercial vehicles. The idea is that valuable tools and equipment can be quickly and easily stored and locked away inside. Even if a thief did manage to gain access to the vehicle, equipment would still be secure due to the Van Vaults security features.

Steering Locks

Consider buying a steering lock and use it every time the vehicle is parked up and left unattended. If offenders get into the vehicle they will not be able to drive it away if a lock is fitted to the steering column.

