

Crime prevention advice for **caravan theft**



Mark the serial or chassis number in several places inside the caravan and on accessories fitted using an ultra violet pen, permanent marker or forensic solution such as Smartwater etc. Make a note of the mark locations and keep it with the photographs and registration documents in a safe place. Record all serial numbers of items such as fridges and cookers etc. A template for doing this is on the Warwickshire Rural Watch website on the 'Advice – Record Forms' section at www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk.

Although some stolen caravans are recovered by the police, it is not always possible to return them to the owner as the offenders have removed all means of identification, such as VIN numbers etc, so further means should be considered.

Trackers

Tracking systems enable a caravan to be located after it has been stolen, generally using satellite technology. There are various types of system available, it is recommended to look at those designed for caravans rather than systems for general vehicles as they tend to be optimised for caravan use, taking into consideration issues such as power consumption.

There are mainly two types of tracker system. 'Monitored' systems, where an alarm is alerted to a monitoring centre, who can then contact the owner and/or the police. Unmonitored systems, which usually alert the owner directly, often by mobile phone text messages.

The majority of caravans recovered are due to them having an effective tracker system in place.

It is important that if you have a tracker system you know how it works so if you have your caravan stolen you can advise the police immediately and start tracking the vehicles movements/confirm its location. This includes having readily to hand the tracking companies details and any codes or reference numbers required.

Wheel Clamps

There are many different types on the market, but generally look for one which appears robust and has a lock which cannot readily be attacked by a hacksaw or drill. Any products with thin radiating arms, or exposed locks, are likely to prove vulnerable. Also bear in mind the thief will happily let down the tyre, even if it causes minor damage to the caravan, so look for a product which will not be defeated by such action.

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