

Crime prevention advice for **caravan theft**



Wheel Locks

Similar to a wheel clamps, but wheel locks fit through the wheel and lock to the brake assembly. There are a number available, some which need to be fitted by a dealer.

Hitchlocks

A good hitchlock will deter the opportunist thief, and will offer a reasonable degree of protection on site, at roadside halts and motorway service areas, providing you use the type that can lock car and caravan together. (In the interests of safety, it is not recommended that a hitchlock is used which locks the two together when in transit.) However, they are not considered to be sufficient protection, on their own, when the caravan is in storage or at home, when a professional thief could use a chain or grappling device to pull the vehicle, making the hitch redundant.

Only products which envelop the hitch-head and completely cover the securing bolts are considered to meet the highest standard under this category. Products which leave the bolts exposed, and which have no further deterrent, allow the offender the opportunity to unbolt it and fit one they have brought with them.

Data Chip Systems

A number of companies offer data chip/electronic tagging technology. The official asset marking system for the caravan industry is CRiS (see below). Other asset marking systems exist, such as Datatag, which has official industry approval through either Sold Secure or Thatcham.

Since 1992, all touring caravans manufactured by National Caravan Council (NCC) members have been marked on their chassis and on all windows with their unique 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number and these are recorded on the CRiS database. Additionally, all new caravans manufactured by NCC members since August 1997 are electronically tagged during manufacture for added security. From 1999 this scheme was extended to allow pre-1992 and privately imported caravans to be registered in a similar way. CRiS marking can be further enhanced by using CRiS Xtra Kit (microdot), which links directly to the CRiS number.

Available to NCC members is also a Silent Tracer, which helps combat fraud through 'cloning' and 'ringing' by giving each caravan its own unique tamper-proof identity using the very latest DNA technology. For further details contact the NCC, details are on their website at www.thencc.org.uk.

Page 3 of 4