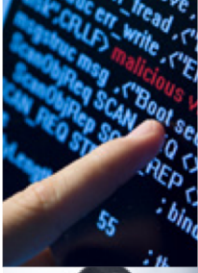


Crime prevention advice for Van/ Lorry Security



**Keep your lorry or van secure.
Prevent your tools from being stolen.**



Help stop thieves.

The theft of lorries, vans, the fuel or their contents can be extremely costly to businesses and small entrepreneurs. Follow these simple tips to minimise the risk of becoming a victim:

- Remove the keys and lock the doors whenever the vehicle is left unattended, even for just a minute.
- Drive with the doors locked in order to deter thieves who may try to enter the vehicle when it is stationary.
- When parking overnight try to use approved locations if possible. Avoid dark, isolated places. If you can, park in a way that prevents access to rear doors.
- Try to travel in convoy with other trusted drivers when delivering high value or vulnerable loads.
- Be aware if anyone asks you to stop. Thieves may try to distract you by claiming to have had a puncture, have been in an accident or by asking for help.
- Don't talk to others about what you're doing, where you're going or what you're carrying.
- When returning to an unattended vehicle, always check for signs of tampering with doors, seals, straps or sheets.
- Don't offer lifts in your vehicle.
- Vary your routine, so thieves can't predict when you will stop.



Protecting your tools.

Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. We appreciate that it is often difficult to remove all tools when the van is left overnight, although this is obviously the ideal.



You can reduce the risks by following some simple advice:

- Consider fitting a tool safe and secure it with good quality locks.
- It may sound obvious, but ensure the van is locked and windows shut whenever it is left unattended.
- Keep all possessions out of sight – don't leave jackets, Sat Navs etc on show.
- Try to park your van close to a building or hedge to restrict access at rear.
- Whenever possible park in a lit area that is covered by CCTV.
- If your van is older, consider fitting new locks that are more difficult to compromise – it's not as expensive as you might think.
- Fit an alarm. There are various alarms on the market but we recommend products that are Thatcham/Secured by Design accredited. However, a small stand alone PIR shed type alarm with a texting facility or personal attack alarm can be very loud when triggered, and will act as a deterrent and let you know that your vehicle has been entered.
- Mark the items of property/tools that are stored in the van with the name of your company, the postcode, house or building number or name. Items that are overtly marked are less desirable and more difficult to sell on.
- Take photographs of items of value, make a note of serial numbers.
- Consider using the Tool Watch App, a police affiliated App developed to help tackle tool theft. More information can be found at www.toolwatchapp.com.

For more information please visit
www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk