

VEHICLE CRIME

(Anytime)

Key messages/top tips

- Don't leave anything in your car, particularly when it is parked overnight. Sixty three per cent of thefts of and from vehicles happen when they are parked outside the home
- Always keep your car locked. This includes closing the sunroof and windows, even if you only leave it for a few seconds. That is all it takes for a criminal to steal your car
- If you are going out during the day, put your shopping or anything else in the boot before you leave your car if you can't take it with you
- When you park, take out your removable car stereo and take it with you. **Don't** leave it in the glove compartment
- Park with care. Park in busy or well-lit areas near CCTV cameras, or in police approved car parks (look out for "ParkMark™" signs) if possible. You can find out which car parks are approved at www.saferparking.com
- Always chain bikes, motorbikes and scooters to something fixed like security rails and ground anchors
- Never leave car documents or spare keys inside the car. Hide them at home, but not by the door. Thieves will use a rod or pole through the letterbox to steal car keys from hall tables
- Get a professionally fitted Thatcham-approved electronic immobiliser (you can find an approved installer through the Vehicle Systems Installation Board at www.vsib.co.uk or you can use a steering lock on older cars. You can find information on products that have been tested by Thatcham or Sold Secure on www.thatcham.org Tel: 01635 or www.soldsecure.com Tel: 01327 264687
- When purchasing a new car, check out the list of top 70 vehicles which are safest from theft. These are highlighted by the British Insurance Car Security Awards and the list can be found on www.thatcham.org
- Consider fitting a car alarm.