CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

D183bT

TOOL THEFT FROM VEHICLES

Offenders are targeting commercial vehicles looking to steal tools. There are a number of measures you can take to prevent tool theft and increase your chances of getting tools back if they are stolen.

Check doors are locked. Criminals can use devices which block the key fob signal, so don't assume your vehicle has locked properly. Consider fitting additional high security locks for added protection.

If you have a garage, use it. If your van is parked on a driveway consider a driveway alert system, CCTV and security lighting. Alternatively try to park in a well lit, well used area. Park your van so that rear or sliding doors are against a fence or wall to prevent access.

Consider fitting a vehicle alarm and an internal security cage for your most valuable tools. Don't leave tools in an unattended vehicle or overnight, put a notice in the window advising that all tools have been removed.

Visibly mark your tools with an engraving/chemical etching kit or a forensic marking kit. Once you have done this register your tools on the free website www.immobilise.com. Put a sticker in your window warning that all items are forensically marked and traceable.

Secure access to building sites. Fences and gates help prevent unauthorised entry. If you see suspicious visitors call the police on non-emergency 101. Be particularly cautious when parking outside DIY stores and trade wholesalers.

If you are offered tools for sale at suspiciously low prices, there's a good chance they are stolen. Look our for tools for sale at car boot sales or on the Internet, if you are a member of a trade group alert other members.

GENERAL ADVICE

- Park in a busy well lit area...consider a Park Mark award car park.
- Put your local shops in your SatNav as home not your home address.
- Fit tamper proof screws to prevent number plate theft.
- Consider driveway security like a security bollard or CCTV.
- Don't take your van keys to bed with you, leave them downstairs... but out of hook and cane reach.
- Lock your vehicle every time you leave it.
- Don't leave items on display.

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE 101 IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

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