



Secure your van and tools - Crime Prevention

Thieves are currently targeting trade vans parked overnight to steal tools. As your tools are your livelihood, losing them can cause far greater loss than their financial value.

Things to do to make your van and tools secure...

- Upgrade the security on your van and fit an independent alarm. Don't rely on the factory fitted alarm. Select one accredited by 'Thatcham' and always use it. www.thatcham.org
- Fit additional locks on your van doors as some manufacturer's locks can be picked, which will also disable the alarm
- Fit a quality tool chest in your van and secure it with a 'Sold Secure' padlock. www.soldsecure.com
- Mark your tools so they can easily be identified as belonging to you. Here are some suggestions how:
 - Use CREMARK permanent tool marking kit www.creproducts.co.uk
 - Engrave your name and phone number together with 'IF SOLD, CALL ME'
 - Spray paint your tools a bright colour such as hot pink. This literally makes them too hot to handle!
 - Keep an up-to-date list of your tools, including photographs and serial numbers, registered on www.immobilise.com – the world's largest FREE register of possessions and their owners
 - This will help all UK police forces to trace owners if the property is recovered
 - Further security advice and products can be found at www.protectavan.co.uk
- Keep your vehicle locked and your keys secure
- Park in a well-lit area in clear view of your property and any CCTV cameras
- If possible, reverse park against a wall or fence so rear doors are inaccessible. If possible, park to protect side doors too
- Unload as many tools as you can from the van. It may seem like a chore but it's better than not being able to work tomorrow!

- Call 999 immediately if you see a crime in progress or any suspicious activity around trade vans. Note registration numbers of vehicles and descriptions of those involved

Report non-emergency crime and any suspicious vehicles or activity in your area to us on 101 or online at

www.northants.police.uk/webform/online-crime-reporting.

In an emergency, call 999.

Find more advice on crime prevention at

www.northants.police.uk/crime-prevention

Message Sent By

Susan Fletcher (Police, Crime Prevention Support Officer, Northamptonshire)