

Approved Security Devices

There are many types of car security devices on the market – from steering wheel and clutch pedal locks to sophisticated electronic protection. Alarms should conform to BS6803 standard. Check before you buy – is it Sold Secure Pact Approved? You should only buy security devices or services that are approved by either Thatcham (the Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre) or by Sold Secure.

Your insurance company may also be able to give you advice on approved security devices. For further advice also see www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk



For further information please call your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Wear Valley and Teesdale Locality

Tel: 01388 742111

Sedgefield Locality

Tel: 01388 816166

Derwentside Locality

Tel: 01207 693693

Durham Locality

Tel: 0191 301 8669

Chester-le-Street Locality

Tel: 0191 389 5761

Easington Locality

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Email

safer.communities@durham.gov.uk

Durham Constabulary

0345 60 60 365

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

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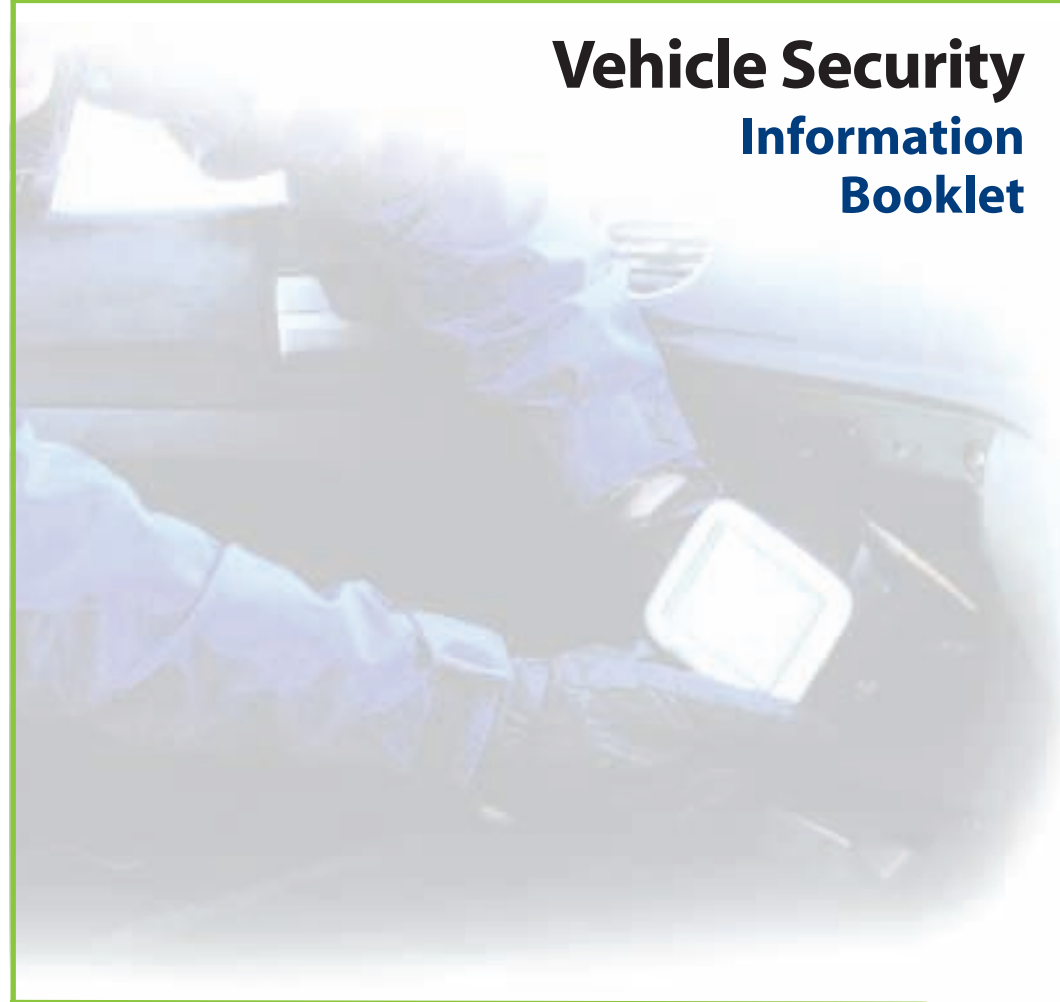


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The Safe Durham Partnership

Altogether safer

Vehicle Security Information Booklet



NHS
County Durham



Durham
County Council

Vehicle Security

For most people their car is more than just a quick way to get from A to B, they are an essential part of our lives. Some of us give them names and spend many hours looking after them. It makes sense to spend a minute or two making sure your car doesn't become a target.

We see car crime as an opportunist crime – without the opportunity a thief cannot take your belongings or your car.

You have a part to play in helping to reduce the opportunity for car crime by being careful and put into practice some simple and cheap security measures. Here are some tips to help you keep your vehicle safe:

Think Now! Don't be wise after the event!

Sat Nav

Today, satellite navigation systems (Sat Navs) are the things most often taken from cars.

Here are some tips to help keep it safe:

- Make sure you remove your Sat Nav every time you leave your car and take it with you! Do not leave it in your glove box
- Remove the cradle from the windscreen. Leaving a cradle on

view can make thieves think that a Sat Nav may still be stored somewhere inside the vehicle

- Wipe away the mark that is left on the windscreen when the Sat Nav and the cradle are removed. Thieves sometimes look for the mark as a sign that you have left a Sat Nav somewhere inside the vehicle

Garages

We all take a great deal of care securing our houses but we also leave our property in a garage. Think about how secure your garage is too!

- Make sure that you fit a good lock on your garage door using 'Thatcham' or Sold Secure 'Gold' products, like the Garage 'defender' lock
- Fit garage windows with a grille and ensure screw heads are not visible on hinges
- Never leave your garage open and unattended, even if you are just popping into the house
- If you leave items such as bicycles in your garage ensure they are security marked and secure them to the wall of the garage
- Install a 'Dusk till Dawn' low energy security light to light up your garage entrance

Don't Display your Valuables

Never leave anything on display when you park your car even if you are only leaving your car for a few minutes. If you can't carry it with you store it in the boot, not the glove box. Do not give thieves any opportunity.

Car Parks

Always try and park your car in an attended car park or in a car park that is part of the police-approved Safer Parking Scheme. Never leave a car door unlocked or a window or sunroof open – even when just going into a shop for a moment or two.

General Parking

Never leave car keys in your car. Never leave your vehicle unlocked, even if you are only going to pay for petrol at a garage. Double-check that all car doors, windows, sunroof and boot are locked before leaving it. Put your aerial down to stop it being vandalised.

Parking at Home

Always use your garage if you have one. Always lock your car and your garage. If you don't have a garage, always try to park in a well-lit, open place.

Steering Locks

Remove the car keys and use a steering wheel lock – even when parking in your own driveway or garage. Use a steering wheel lock every time you leave your car in the open.

Immobilisers

Electronic engine immobilisers stop your car from starting and are the best way to stop thieves. They should be professionally fitted by an approved installer.

Car Alarms

Car alarms can deter thieves from not only stealing your car, but also taking things from it. They should be fitted by a professional.

Locking Wheel Nuts

These are cheap and easy to fit. They stop thieves from taking your wheels.

Etching

Have your car registration number or the last 7 digits of your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etched onto all windows, windscreens and your headlamps. Mark all your car equipment, like your car stereo, with your vehicle registration number.