

Van crime has been subject to a sharp increase in recent years, with criminals quick to exploit any vehicle specific vulnerabilities that may exist. Criminals are also armed with a vast array of new weapons, which are capable of bypassing OEM central locking, allowing them to operate covertly and gain within a matter of seconds.

Stay ahead of the criminals and protect your vehicles with our handy van security guide!

GUARDING AGAINST LCV CRIME



ALWAYS LOCK YOUR VEHICLE:

It might seem obvious but ALWAYS lock and secure your vehicle. You can have the most secure locking solution available but if you don't use it correctly or become complacent its effectiveness is completely lost.



MARK TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Criminals are often targeting tools and equipment that are kept inside a vehicle. Consider marking your assets with a forensic marking kit. In doing so the items become instantly identifiable as belonging to you, making resale on the black market next to impossible and also increases the possibility of the item being returned to you.



KEYS ARE KEY:

Key theft is still a common method utilised in vehicle crime, so ensure that keys are always stored in a safe place and are never left on display. Refrain from keeping them near the front door where scanners or relay boosters may be able to pick up the signal, consider storing them in a metal box or anti-theft wallet that can block the signal.



VEHICLE SPECIFICATION

Carefully consider your vehicle specification. Avoid glazed doors which although convenient, are vulnerable and allow intruders to see contents; If possible, always opt for a solid interior bulkhead that restricts access to the load area and also consider if you really need signwriting which advertises potential contents.



PARK SECURELY AND DEFENSIVELY:

Ensure you park in as safe and secure a location as possible, avoiding quiet or isolated areas. If conditions allow, block access to load area doors by parking against walls or other vehicles – avoid dimly lit or secluded areas and ensure that vehicles are monitored by CCTV where available.



NO VALUABLES STORED IN THIS VEHICLE OVERNIGHT:

Wherever possible, remove valuable items overnight. If this is not feasible, consider high-quality locks for load doors and lockable toolboxes inside for valuable equipment. Consider adding stickers that state 'No tools are left in this vehicle overnight.' Any deterrent, no matter how inconsequential it may seem, is better than no deterrent.



DON'T TAKE RISKS

Do not be tempted to leave your vehicle in a vulnerable condition, even if you are only momentarily away from the vehicle e.g. leaving the engine running whilst de-icing windows or making a delivery. Never leave an idling vehicle unattended (which in most cases is illegal) or a loaded vehicle with doors unlocked.



SECURE IT ALL

Don't forget to protect exposed or easily accessible equipment that could be attractive to thieves. Avoid leaving unsecured ancillary items, such as ladders on your vehicle. Loss of such items could greatly impact upon your day-to-day operations.



PROTECT THE LOAD AREA:

Arguably, the wisest investment that any van owner or operator could make is that of an additional security lock on load area doors. The biggest draw for a thief is your load area (more specifically, its contents), so protect it and make it as difficult as possible for criminals.

