

Power Tool Security



Key Points

- Remove tools from the van if possible.
- Always lock all doors & shut windows, physically checking doors are locked.
- Always set your alarm/ immobiliser and take action if you hear the alarm sounding.
- Park in a garage or secure area covered by CCTV where possible.
- Park with the doors against a wall.
- Mark all tools with an engraver and/or permanent marker with your postcode/initials and/or using forensic markers.
- Register tools for free at: www.immobilise.com
- Consider upgrading locks/fitting additional protection.
- If you store tools in a shed or garage, ensure it is securely locked and alarmed.

Trades people often carry thousands of pounds worth of tools in their vehicles, leaving them a target for theft, especially when vehicles are unattended on the street or in hotel car parks.

Business may suffer when a job cannot be completed on time due to a lack of tools. Companies suffer

further loses as time has to be spent repairing damage, replacing tools and completing insurance claims, which can have a significant impact on a business.

By taking the following steps you can reduce the risk of being a victim of such crime.



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Remove tools from the van if possible.

Whilst this is not always possible, taking even the more expensive power tools and electrical items out of the van when not in use will minimise the impact on your business. If thieves find that most vans don't contain valuable items, the incentive to break in will diminish.

Always lock all doors & shut windows, physically checking doors are locked.

Make sure you go round the vehicle before you leave it and check each door is locked and window fully closed. If you know that the locking system is faulty, get it repaired immediately. If the door fails to lock when you operate the key fob, it is possible that the signal is being blocked by someone using a signal jammer. Do not leave the vehicle until you are certain it is secure.

Always set your alarm/immobiliser and take action if you hear the alarm sounding.

Double locking the van (ie pressing the lock button twice) should activate both the immobiliser and alarm system. If you hear an alarm sounding, take positive action to investigate the cause, without putting yourself at risk. Thieves will sometimes activate an alarm to test the reaction and if there is none they may return to steal items.

Park in a garage or secure area where possible.

Parking your van in a locked garage or compound will add a further layer of security to the vehicle. Not only can this hide your vehicle from view but it can also increase the risk of a thief being caught as it takes longer to access the vehicle and there is the risk of an

alarm sounding on both the garage/compound as well as the vehicle.

Park in an area covered by CCTV where possible.

CCTV can act as a deterrent to some criminals. It can also assist in the detection of crime, especially if used in conjunction with other security measures. If you are parking at a hotel whilst working as a contractor, park in areas covered by the cameras. Consider having your own system installed at home/where you routinely park your vehicle. See guidance notes on CCTV for more detailed information. If you are unable to park your van in an area covered by CCTV, park in a visible location overlooked by passers-by and fellow workers.

Park with the rear/side doors against a wall.

A simple step that will make it more difficult to access locks or remove tools. It will also increase the time it takes to gain entry to the vehicle, increasing the chance of being caught.

Mark all tools with an engraver and/or a permanent marker with your postcode/initials and/or using forensic markers.

It is not uncommon for police to recover items they believe to be stolen but be unable to prove their status or return them to their owner as there is no means of identifying them. Using an engraver, permanent marker or even gloss paint to add your company name or your own initials is a visual deterrent to theft. You may also wish to consider using forensic markers.

See: www.securedbydesign.com for details. Mark the item in several places

and keep a record of where it is marked so that this can be passed onto second hand dealers and officers. See the guidance note on property marking for more detail.

Register your tools for free at www.immobilise.com

Immobilise is a free property registering service to which the police have full access. Second hand traders and members of the public can access the sister site Checkmend for a small fee to determine the status of an item prior to purchase. Registering your tools on Immobilise makes it more difficult for thieves to sell the items on, ensures you will get them back if recovered by police and also provides you with an electronic inventory of the serial numbers, make and model of your tools. Some manufacturers will allow you to register your tools with them and this again provides an electronic inventory.

Consider upgrading locks/fitting additional protection.

Upgrading your locks and alarm systems will provide your van and tools with additional security. Details of approved security products can be found here:

www.thatcham.org/security If you are notified of vehicle security upgrades by your dealer, always make sure you get them installed.

If you store tools in a shed or garage, ensure it is securely locked and alarmed.

See the guidance note on shed and garage security for further information.

Do not leave any items on display.

Thieves will be attracted to any items on show within a vehicle, even old coats, rucksacks and shopping bags will attract attention as the thief may believe they contain loose change, phones or other valuable. Always remove all items from view.

Be particularly aware when un-loading tools/materials from your van.

Tool thefts have occurred whilst vans are left insecure during loading or unloading of tools and materials. Whilst it may take a little longer, it is less inconvenient to secure the vehicle each time you leave it, than return to find that items have been stolen.

Always check your van/tools before heading off to work/site.

Forensic opportunities will be lost if a vehicle is moved and the contents touched. Always check your vehicle before you leave and call police immediately if you suspect a break in has occurred and/or items have been stolen.

Remove copper piping from storage tube on the van.

Copper piping has been stolen from the roofs of vans. Always remove the piping before leaving the vehicle and use a secure storage tube during transit if the piping will not fit inside the van.

To increase the security of tools, you can bolt either a cage or box to the base of the van which should be secured with a sturdy close shackle padlock.



Sir Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police in 1829. He set out nine principles for policing. The First Principle was:

“To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment.”

[Click here for further Crime Reduction Advice](#)



All your policing questions answered

<https://www.askthe.police.uk/content/>



Secured by Design. (SBD) The official UK Police flagship initiative combining the principles of 'Designing Out Crime' with physical security. We advise that you look on the SBD website for all of your Security products. <http://www.securedbydesign.com/>



More Security Products can also be found at:
<http://www.soldsecure.com/>

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Speak up. Stay safe.

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Crime Stoppers is an Independent Charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>



Help after crime—Contact Victim Support for free and confidential support
<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

Call us on 101. In an emergency always dial 999



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