

Theft from motor vehicle

Leeds District Crime Prevention Unit

Theft from motor vehicle is very easy and cheap to prevent by simply removing items from your vehicle when you leave it unoccupied.

It only takes a minute!

- Make sure that you remove valuable items from your vehicle when you get out ie. Sat Navs, Mobile phones, laptops, handbags and other portable items are all easy to steal.
- If you have a sat nav that sticks to your window make sure that you have wiped the sucker marks from your window. Most people leave Sat Navs in their glove compartment so leave this open and take the Sat nav with you.
- Offences can take place anywhere, in a car park, on the side of the road or even when your car is on your drive.
- Always check you have locked your vehicle by trying the door handle. How many of us click the lock button and don't actually check if it has locked.
- Don't even leave your car unlocked when you nip into the shop or to pay for petrol.
- Vehicles used for business purposes, such as vans, are often targeted. Tools, machinery and other equipment should be removed when the vehicle is left. The loss of commercial equipment could have a devastating effect on your business and livelihood.
- Unless you can park your vehicle in a garage or on your drive, park in a well lit area that is visible to other people or covered by CCTV. Thieves are less likely to break in if they can be seen.
- At home don't leave vehicle keys next to a door or window thieves may sometimes break into houses to steal your keys just to get your car.
- Registration plates might also be attractive to an offender, consider having tamper proof plates or screws fitted
- When you are parking your vehicle in a public place try to look for a car park that has 'Park Mark' accreditation. These car parks offer higher levels of security for your vehicle.

Finally, consider the above advice, it only takes a minute for a thief, but it only takes seconds for you to secure your vehicle.