



CRIME REDUCTION

A New Year Resolution – Help Reduce Car Crime

Many people will have received portable satellite navigation units (Satnavs) as Christmas presents. With satnavs becoming more popular with motorists, they are an increasing object of desire to criminals. If you have a portable system make note of the following:

- Always take it with you when you leave the car, together with the support cradle and suction pads;
- Make sure you wipe away any suction pad marks left on the windscreen or dashboard, as thieves will look out for these;
- Don't leave the equipment in the glove compartment – thieves will usually check there first.

You can also help by following these tips:

- Mark your satnav equipment and any other “in-car” equipment, e.g. audio and video players, with your postcode and house number or your vehicle registration number. Also, remember to register the equipment at www.immobilise.com;
- Make a note of the make, model and serial number of the equipment and keep the note somewhere safe – not in the car;
- Lock all doors and windows, not forgetting the sunroof, when leaving your car;
- Never leave the keys in the ignition when the car is unattended, even while you are paying for petrol;
- Don't leave anything on view in your car.

Thieves are opportunists and it only takes a moment to break into your car. Remember that even an empty bag left on a back seat of a locked car can be sufficiently tempting for a thief to smash a window. Whenever you can take property with you when you leave the car, but if this really is impossible lock it in the boot out of sight.

Reduce car crime and you also reduce insurance premiums

Crime Reduction Officer