Being a victim of vehicle crime can be distressing.

More than 80 per cent of people whose cars are broken into or stolen are emotionally affected.

Vehicle crime also causes victims a lot of inconvenience. You could be without a car for weeks waiting for the garage to make repairs or for your insurer to pay. That’s why your vehicle’s security features should be as important as any of its other features.

For further advice and information on securing your vehicle, visit the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Additional contacts:
Sold Secure – for a list of recognised security products: www.soldsecure.com

Crimestoppers – if you have any information on car crime: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Immobilise – to register your valuables in case of loss or theft: www.immobilise.com

Association of British Insurers (ABI) – for information on insurance group ratings and vehicle security: www.abi.org.uk

For details on the Park Mark™ scheme go online to www.saferparking.com

Most vehicle crime can be prevented.
Don’t give criminals an easy ride.
Vehicle crime accounts for around a fifth of all recorded crime in the UK and costs the taxpayer around £3 billion a year. Nationally, vehicle crime has dropped by 50 per cent since 2005. You can help drive down vehicle crime in your area.

Most car criminals are opportunists. By following the tips in this leaflet you can outsmart car thieves and limit their opportunity to steal your valuables or vehicle.

Do not display

- Remove all valuables from your car when you park.
- Even an old coat or a plastic bag left behind can tempt a thief.

Key values

- Keep your keys safe: Never leave the ignition key in your vehicle while it is unattended for example, at a petrol station.

Perfect parking

- If you have a garage, use it. If not, always try to park in a well lit, open location. Use secure car parks displaying the official Park Mark™ sign.

- Trust locks, not luck

- Lock all doors, close all windows and shut the sunroof every time you leave your car however briefly. Use a steering wheel lock.

- Call a halt to car theft

- If you leave your car however briefly, use a steering wheel lock.

- Look all doors, close all windows and shut the sunroof every time you leave your car however briefly. Use a steering wheel lock.

Sat-nav. Would you be lost without it?

- Install an alarm to deter thieves from not only stealing your car, but also taking items from it.

Deal with your wheels

- Use locking wheel nuts. They are cheap, easy to fit and stop thieves from taking your wheels.

- If you own a high value or rare car, arrange to have a vehicle tracking system fitted. This equipment can help to locate a car after it has been stolen.

Make your mark

- Keep your vehicle's registration number or the last seven digits of the vehicle identification number (VIN) etched on to all glass surfaces including the headlamps.

- Photo etching means you can then take it in your car by marking them.

- Each to protect

- Remove all valuables from your vehicle.

- Also taking items from it. Insist on a high ticket value or have insurance to cover a vehicle.

- Keep track of your vehicle

- If you come a high ticket value of rare car, arrange to have a vehicle tracking system fitted. This equipment can help to locate a car after it has been stolen.

- Do not display opportunity to steal your valuables or vehicle.

- This idea is you can customise car thieves and limit their opportunity to steal your car.

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