



# DORSET News

Integrity

Professionalism

Fairness

Respect

## **POLICE ISSUE THEFT FROM VEHICLE WARNING**

**Police in Dorset are warning motorists not to leave any valuable possessions in their vehicles and to check the fixing of parts and accessories following an increase in thefts from vehicles across the county.**

Valuable possessions such as handbags and satellite navigation systems as well as parts and accessories such as catalytic converters and number plates are being targeted from unattended vehicles across the county.

To lower your chances of becoming a victim of these crimes remember the following security advice:

- Remember lock the doors, windows, boot and sun-roof every time you leave your vehicle
- Remove all valuables such as handbags, wallets, mobile phones, tools and laptops or other possessions from your vehicle.
- Remove satellite navigation equipment and GPS from your vehicle, including the cradle, it is a favourite among thieves.
- To stop number plates from being stolen, fit theft-resistant number plates to your car ensuring that they conform to DVLA standard or replace existing screws with ones that can not be unscrewed (these are called clutch screws).
- Consider using a steering wheel or handbrake lock and fit locking wheel nuts as wheels can also be a target for car thieves.
- Fit an alarm or immobiliser to your vehicle.
- If you have one, use a garage.
- If you park your car on a driveway, ensure that you have good security lighting as this will make your car visible to the street and can deter would-be-thieves.

For crime prevention advice visit [www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk) or contact your local Safer Neighbourhood on 01202 or 01305 222 222 who can offer you more detailed advice with regard to preventing metal thefts from your vehicle.

**Witnesses and anyone with information should call Dorset Police in confidence on 01202 or 01305 22 22 22 or the free and anonymous Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111 where mobile phone tariffs may apply. Please remember, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, dial 999.**

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