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| General Crime Prevention Message |

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| Having your car broken into and losing your things to thieves or having your car stolen can be very distressing. Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your vehicle, and what is in it safe:1) Always lock it - Get into the habit of locking your vehicle even if you are just 'popping' into places to get something quickly.2) Close windows and sun roofs to prevent 'fishing' - leaving them open invites thieves to fish for your items or to unlock your vehicle to gain full access. Don't give them the opportunity.3) Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws - The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or to avoid fines/parking tickets is to fit a stolen number plate. Using temper-resistant screws to attach your vehicles number plates makes it harder for thieves to get it off your vehicle and use it for their own.4) Take your items with you - Your mobile phones, cash and other personal items on show n your vehicle invites opportunist thieves. Always take your items with you when you are leaving your vehicle alone.5) Tool thefts from vans - Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. if you have to leave your tools in the van overnight it's a good idea to mark them clearly with your name or a company name. Make sure your van is secured and parked against a wall to make access to the vehicle harder. Items that are clearly marked are less desirable and more difficult to sell on if stolen. Best practice is to take your tools of the vehicle if you can.9) Park in a well-lit and busier area - It doesn't take long to break into a vehicle so parking your vehicle in a well-lit and busier area, or an area that's clearly marked with CCTV camera increases the chances of the thieves being seen so they'll probably think twice before making an attempt.10) Catalytic Converter theft - the precious metal in catalytic converters has led to an increase in their theft. To keep yours safe, ask your car dealer if they can give you any advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer to make it harder for the thieves to gain access to. Alternatively, try to make sure your vehicle is parked in a garage overnight or if you have a commercial vehicle park it in a secure compound. If this isn't possible park your vehicle in a well-lit area that is overlooked by either members of the public or CCTV cameras. |