

Van Security



Van Security – It’s something I doubt any tradesman takes for granted. This is of course where you keep all of your expensive tools, paperwork and manuals. Your livelihood is contained in this mobile “office”. But what if you were a victim of thieves, what if it happened where you least expected? Would you be prepared?

Keeping your van and tools safe

Vans are often targeted by thieves for their tools. Here are a few simple tips to help secure your van and its contents:

- It might sound obvious, but make sure you lock the doors and shut the windows whenever you leave your van unattended.
- Never leave any valuables visible - keep ALL possessions out of sight. Even if you know that there is nothing valuable in your jacket pocket or file left on the seat, a thief may try their luck.
- Remove tools from your van when left overnight.
- If removal of tools is not possible, fit a tool safe / van vaults and ensure it is fully secured with good quality approved locks.
- Consider parking your van close to a hedge or wall in order to restrict access for anyone trying to get inside.
- Engrave or mark tools and their boxes with your postcode and house number. Register your property for free at www.immobilise.com. You can register serial numbers, upload photos and even record items as stolen.
- Fit additional external locks to van doors.

Most thieves will be able to break into any standard van lock so it is a good idea to add extra locks. Deadlocks and Slamlocks are a popular choice, with the latter engaging automatically when you close your doors. If you do use deadlocks make sure you remember to lock them, they don’t work automatically like a Slamlock.



- Lock covers and cover plates are also worth investing in, offering an extra visual deterrent as well as an extra protective barrier between the thief and the lock mechanism.
- Make it obvious that your van has added security. Use stickers to highlight the extra locks and let people know your van is alarmed. This can act as a deterrent.
- Fit an approved alarm and immobiliser and remember to set it at all times.
- Use an approved steering lock, gear clamp or a “Pedal Box Guard” to encase the pedals when the vehicle is not in use.
- Fit an on-board diagnostic (OBD) safe device, a secure lockable device that fits over the vehicle’s OBD port, inside the cabin, to prevent additional keys being coded.
- Tracking devices will aid the police in locating your vehicle after theft. Often it’s not the van that is of any real value to the thieves though, it is the contents and a tracker won’t really offer much hope of recovering your tools. It’s still a good idea to invest in a GPS tracking device, especially if you are leasing the vehicle.
- We recommend you purchase devices to ‘Thatcham’, Secured By Design or Sold Secure standards.

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately on 101. If you see a crime in progress, always dial 999.