

Vehicle Crime

Reducing Vehicle Crime

For more information about vehicle security see:

www.west-midlands.police.uk/safermotors

www.direct.gov.uk

www.securedcarparks.com

www.crimereduction.gov.uk

www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk

www.thatcham.org

To find out more information on your local police team and how to influence local policing priorities please visit:

www.west-midlands.police.uk

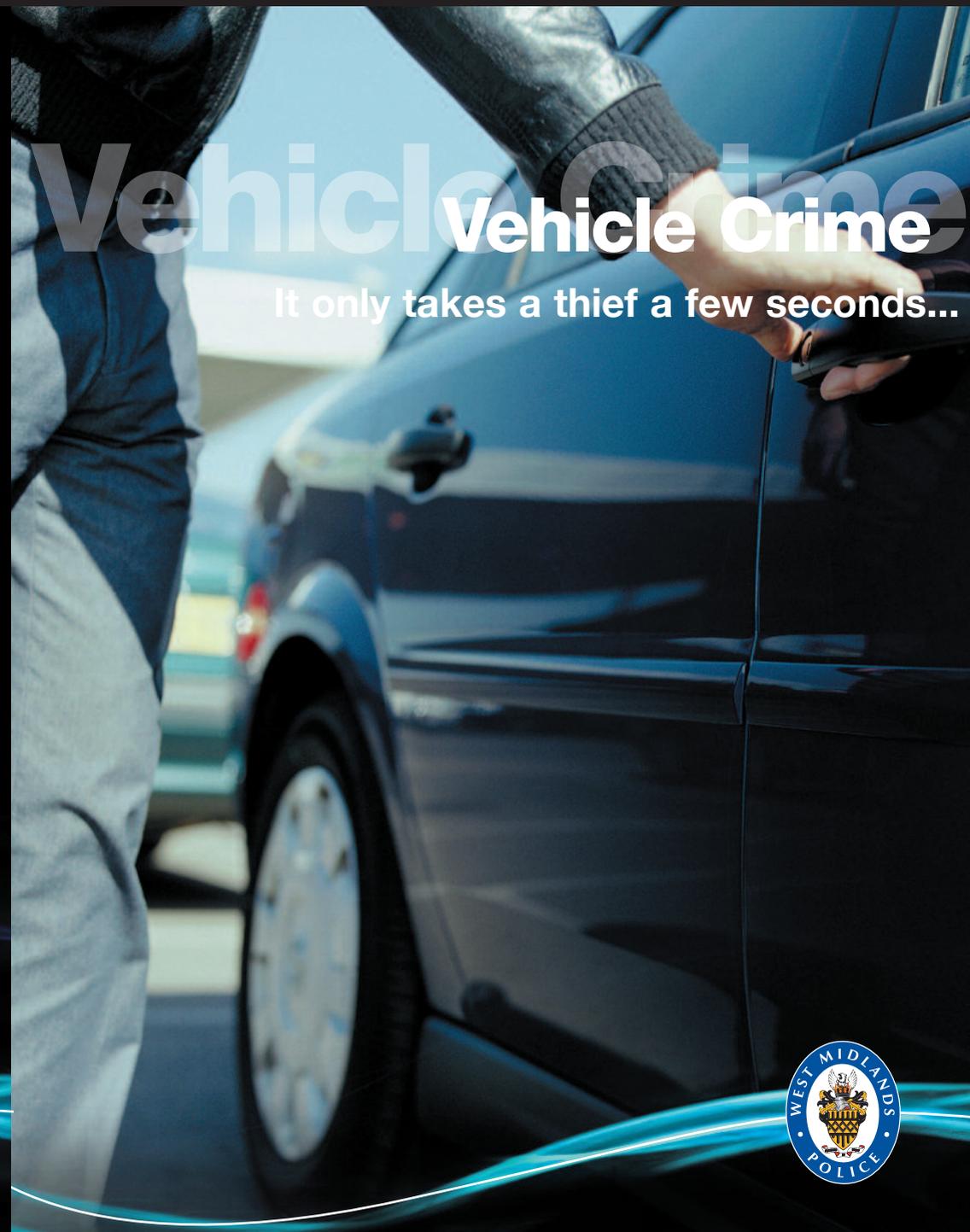
www.myneighbourhood.info

www.rateyourlocalpolice.co.uk

or search for us on Facebook, Youtube or Twitter.



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Vehicle Crime

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It only takes a thief a few seconds...



Serving our communities, protecting them from harm

The aim of this leaflet is to help you reduce the risk of being a victim of vehicle crime.

Vehicle crime in the West Midlands is at its lowest since 1975 and we want to make sure this trend continues.

Vehicle Security

Many thefts or car break-ins happen because owners make it easy for the thief. It may be difficult to protect your car from a determined, professional thief but most car crime is committed by opportunists who may be put off by relatively cheap security precautions.

Remember, it only takes a thief a few seconds to get into a vehicle. By following these simple steps you could significantly reduce the likelihood of being a victim of vehicle crime:

- Don't leave car keys in the ignition.
- Don't park in a dark and secluded area.
- Your garage is for your car – use it!
- Lock your vehicle when driving and when you leave it.
- Never leave valuables in the glove box - this is the first place thieves look.
- Lock the doors, and close the windows and sun roof when you leave the car for any length of time.

- Don't leave anything on display – even a jacket or bag can be an appealing target for a thief.
- Remove the stereo if possible.
- Remove satellite navigation devices where possible, including the support cradle and suction pad. Wipe away any suction pad marks left on the windscreen and replace any cover to the power source, i.e. cigarette lighter cover.
- Tuck in wing mirrors and put aerial down to discourage vandalism.
- Never store your car's documents in the car.
- On frosty mornings, don't leave your car unattended with the engine running while it defrosts.
- Have the windows etched with the registration number of the car.
- Park in well-lit or busy areas whenever possible. If you park during daylight, think what the area will feel like after dark.

Driving

- Keep your car in good condition and make sure you have enough petrol to complete your journey.
- Keep doors locked when driving and keep bags, phones and other valuables out of sight.
- Where possible, use car parks approved under the police Safer Parking Scheme. These display the Park Mark sign. A list of these can be found at www.saferparking.com
- Do not give lifts to, or accept lifts from, people you do not know or from someone who is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Although you may feel comfortable carrying a mobile phone, keep it out of sight and do not use it while driving, as this is a criminal offence.



If your car is stolen or broken into:

- Contact the police as soon as possible – call **0345 113 5000** and ask for your local station.
- If possible, have available full details available of the make, model and registration number of the vehicle.
- Make a list of any property stolen from the vehicle, giving as many details as possible.
- Ask neighbours or people living in the area if they saw anything suspicious.



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