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#### How to keep your caravan secure

Pitched up or in storage, here's how to safeguard your tourer



and fit a tracking unit Prevent your keys from being cloned, and monitor your van

**Protect your car keys** 



#### How to install a safe Fitting a small safe in your van is easy and hugely beneficial



Secure storage for your tourer Selecting the right specialised storage facility for your needs



#### Your personal security on tour

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## HOW TO... **KEEP YOUR** CARAVAN SAFE

Whether your tourer is pitched up on site or stowed away in storage, taking a few simple steps to protect it will offer you reassurance, says John Sootheran

ALTHOUGH THE CHANCES that your caravan will be stolen or broken into are thankfully small, the number of these unwelcome incidents has been growing, so there's never been a better time to audit your security provisions and check they are all as good as they can be.

Follow our expert guide to the top 10 security measures for your caravan, and you'll be making life as difficult as you possibly can for the pesky thieves.



Wheel locks are a highly visible deterrent

#### Wheel locks

Wheel locks come in all shapes and sizes, but one of the most popular is the Al-Ko Secure wheel lock. This device is smaller and lighter than most other wheel locks, so it's easier to transport. The receiver is also fixed to the caravan's chassis, making it a more secure option.

When fitted, the lock receiver is visible behind the wheel and the device slides between the wheel 'spokes' before the >>



bolt is screwed into the receiver. Aside from Al-Ko Secure, a wide range of wheel locks is available, from brands such as Milenco, Bulldog, Maypole and Fullstop.

These devices don't require a prefitted receiver, are often cheaper, and if you have a twin-axle, are much easier to fit – aligning two wheels to the perfect spoke position can be quite a tricky procedure with an Al-Ko Secure lock.

Most tend to clamp around the wheel in a similar fashion, to prevent the caravan being towed. These clamps are generally a lot bigger, and will require storage space in an external locker or your tow car.

#### Steady locks

Quick and easy to use and store, these simple locks increase the hassle level for any would-be thief, simply by locking the corner steadies in the lowered position, making it impossible to tow the caravan.

#### Winter wheels

Winter wheels are not actually wheels at all; rather, they are axle stands, which bolt onto the wheel hub in place of the removed wheel.

A potential thief would have to be very motivated indeed to arrive at your caravan with a set of replacement wheels, then try to burn off the device with oxy-acetylene, and hope that the heat doesn't damage and seize the hub.

Pop your wheels in storage – away from the caravan, obviously – and your tyres will also benefit from not sitting for three to six months under the weight of the van.

#### **Hitchlocks**

Hitchlocks are a compact and fairly light security device, and like wheel locks, are considered to be the bare minimum provision by many leisure vehicle insurance companies. A hitchlock clamps and locks around the hitch-head, preventing a towball from being inserted into the hitch. Quick and simple to fit, they are easy to store in a front locker, so they're always on hand.

Along with a hitchlock, it's advisable to fit a wheel lock where it's highly visible. In fact, the more deterrents that you have fitted, the better.

Note that not having a wheel lock and hitchlock fitted at all times when your caravan is unhitched could invalidate your insurance policy.

#### **Security posts**

Security posts are a cheap and relatively effective defence or deterrent against 'tow-away' thefts for caravans stored at home. Position your van on your drive and lock the post in position behind it. They're quick to use, although the professional thief can sometimes remove them pretty





'You should remove all valuables from your caravan when it's in storage, and it makes sense to remove the cushions, too'

rapidly. But again, as a deterrent, they might just convince opportunist thieves to move on and try their luck elsewhere.

Security posts usually come in bolt-down or concrete-in designs, the former being easier to fit, but potentially less secure.

#### Trackers

Buy wisely and you will find the latest tracking systems are really very effective. The best are part of an integrated alarm and tracker set-up, so if your caravan is broken into, or moved, tilted or lifted, while the alarm is set, a suite of defences is automatically triggered.

The alarm will sound immediately and the system will then contact the security firm's tracking centre.

They will telephone you to find out if the system has been triggered accidentally, or if the caravan is actually being attacked or stolen. All of this will happen within a



minute. After that, the local police service can be contacted if required.

Vehicle trackers are available in various guises, including app-based ones that will contact your mobile (these require a SIM card, provided by the supplier), which start at around £200, and full-on systems with staffed tracking centres, from about £500. For more on trackers, see p88.

#### **Storage facilities**

Most caravans are stolen, vandalised or broken into when they're being stored, rather than while they're in use - and the vast majority of them are taken when they are stored at your home.

If you do opt for a storage facility, it's crucial to choose a good one: check out the sites at CaSSOA (cassoa.co.uk), and see our guide on p92. But bear in mind, too, that there are some great facilities which aren't registered with CaSSOA.

You should remove all valuables from your caravan when it's in storage, and it makes sense to remove all the cushions, too – this makes the van less attractive to potential thieves.

#### **CRiS**

The Central Registration & Identification Scheme (CRiS), operated by the NCC, is a database listing all UK-manufactured (and some imported) caravans and their registered keepers - rather like a DVLA for caravan owners.



Every caravan window is etched with the van's unique VIN number, as is the chassis. This makes it easy to identify stolen caravans, and impossibly expensive for a thief to hide the van's real identity.

Before you buy, always check that the model you are considering has visible and matching CRiS numbers.

#### ссти

CCTV has become far more affordable in recent years, and many systems only require a power supply - they do not need hardwiring into a video feed, with cables running all around your property.

Cleverly, the latest designs link easily to your home Wi-Fi, and footage can be stored on a hard drive or in the cloud.

Fit the cameras out of reach or out of view, overlooking your caravan.

Systems are available from well under £100, but generally, the more you pay, the better the camera will be.

Bear in mind that if your CCTV records images reaching beyond your property's boundaries, you must use your system in line with data protection laws.

#### Alarms

Factory-fitted alarms tend to be positioned in the same location on a caravan, so the experienced thief might know where they are located if aiming to silence them.

If you are having an aftermarket alarm fitted, ensure that the control box and siren are hidden away. The opportunist thief will almost certainly leg it if an alarm sounds, but the brazen professional is far more likely to come prepared.

## HOW TO... PROTECT YOUR CAR KEYS & FIT A TRACKER

Nigel Hutson shows how to take your security systems to the next level by shielding your keys and installing a tracking unit for your caravan

IT'S A SAD REFLECTION of society these days that we are constantly obliged to protect our possessions against thieves.

It's become something of an arms race, too – just when the manufacturers think they've solved a problem with technology, along comes another criminal who's found the means of defeating that particular technology! And so it continues.

It's fair to say that traditionally, caravans haven't been the trickiest things to steal: window catches can almost seem to be made of jelly, door locks don't always feel secure, and so on. Unfortunately, until manufacturers do something about that, we're stuck with it and there's not a lot that we can do about break-ins.

One reassurance, though, is that when caravans are in storage (see p92), there's not usually much of high value left inside. Of more importance is doing all you can to prevent the caravan itself being stolen, something that happens far too often. Our previous tourer had an Al-Ko Secure wheel-lock and an Al-Ko hitchlock fitted, and a factory-fit monitored alarm and tracker. While experience tells me that this is an excellent system, the cost of the annual subscription exceeds any insurance discount that might be offered.

So, are any more cost-effective options available? The simple answer to this is yes, and we'll be having a look at one tracking device later. However, if you're going to fit such a unit for insurance-saving purposes, you will need to check with your insurer beforehand, to find out whether they make any stipulations about the type of tracker that must be fitted.

#### Secure your keys

Still on the subject of vehicle theft, many modern cars come with keyless locking/ unlocking and ignition systems.

This is, of course, very convenient most of the time, but the serious downside is

that light-fingered opportunists can steal many expensive vehicles pretty easily.

Basically, they'll find a car they want to steal, then scan for a signal emitted by the key. The owner may believe the keys are secure in a drawer inside the house, far away from the vehicle, but unfortunately, this isn't enough. The keys can be cloned, and then it's bye-bye car.

Carrying out a little research on this subject led to me buy a couple of mobile telephone signal blocking pouches (aka Faraday bags) for our car keys. These are relatively cheap and fit in a pocket (or handbag) with your keys secure inside. And they work very well indeed.

With the keys in my hand or my pocket, as soon as I touch the car door handle, it unlocks. But simply put the keys inside the pouch, and even if I place it right next to the handle, the door won't open. I also tried putting the keys inside an old tin, and that had exactly the same effect.



Store your key fob in a tin to prevent it from unlocking the car door...



... alternatively, a mobile phone signal blocking pouch is very effective

SECURITY KNOW-HOW SERIES



Rewire Security DB2 Self-Install GPS Tracker



Reverse side of the DB2 device, showing the pre-attached double-sided tape



Leisure battery in and out of the locker

#### Fit a tracking unit

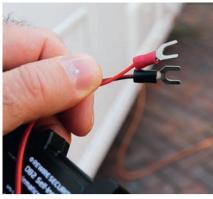
Turning to the question of caravans and trackers, I was recently in contact with Bristol-based company Rewire Security (rewiresecurity.co.uk), who sent me one of their DB2 Self-Install GPS Trackers, which works in conjunction with a phone app (other makes are available).

Although it was designed for cars, vans and motorcycles, there is no reason why the DB2 can't be fitted to a caravan.

The DB2 retails at £34.99. There is an additional cost for the use of the device/ app (currently £59.99 for a year), and if accepted by your insurance company, it may well pay for itself, in any discount offered for having a tracker in your van.



Prewired DB2 unit with the logo facing



Prewired terminals on the DB2



Loosening the battery terminal nut

So what's in the box, and how easy is it to fit? You get the prewired DB2, with fitting and operating instructions that are very easy to follow, and a card with your personal log-in instructions.

The only tool you will need to fit the device is a spanner (or spanners) of the correct size to loosen the leisure battery terminal connections.

The DB2 must be fitted so that the logo side is facing upwards - this is where the GPS receiver is located.

As luck would have it, there was just enough room for the unit to sit flat on top of the battery in our locker.

First, remove the battery from within the locker, then loosen both terminal

'If you're going to fit a tracker, check with your insurer beforehand, to see if they make any stipulations about the type fitted' bolts (if your caravan has clip-on type terminals, you might have to adapt how you attach the wires from the DB2, but that should be straightforward). There's no need to remove the terminals from the leisure battery, though.

The forked connector on the red wire from the DB2 was slotted over the bolt on the positive terminal between the terminal and the securing nut. The nut was then retightened.

Now you can simply repeat the same procedure with the black wire and the negative terminal.

When both wires have been connected, the green 'Status' LED light on the DB2 device starts flashing, indicating that the unit is powered and operating.

The green 'Navigate' LED light will initially be solid. This indicates that the unit is searching for a GPS signal, and once that signal has been established, the LED will also start flashing. >>

#### KNOW-HOW SERIES SECURITY



Loosened terminal nut



Red (positive) wire from DB2 connected



Both LEDs flash, showing DB2 is operational



Solid 'Navigate' light, searching for GPS, with flashing 'Status' LED



Logging on to the GPS Live tracking website



Various display screens and settings

#### 'You can also set up some alerts, so that you are notified if the unit moves, if the power is cut and so on'

The DB2 was easily secured to the top of the battery using the pre-attached double-sided tape (on the opposite side to the logo and LEDs), and the battery reinstalled in the locker.

The next thing that you need to do is to visit the tracking website, at www. gpslive.co.uk, and download the app to your phone (both Android and Apple versions are available).

#### **Check your status**

With the app downloaded, you simply log on using the details given on the card supplied with the DB2.

As soon as I'd done that, the 'status' of our unit appeared on the screen. Fortunately, it showed that the caravan was 'stopped' (that is, not moving). Selecting the map display showed me exactly where the DB2 was. You can alter the settings, displaying a map or hybrid aerial photo, and zoom in or out.

You can also set up some alerts, so that you are notified if the unit moves, if the power is cut and so on.

I'd originally set up the device before fitting the battery back in the caravan, and when I lifted the battery (with the DB2 attached) to put it back in the locker, I immediately received an alert, so it is clearly very sensitive.

As I said earlier, the DB2 is designed mainly for use in other vehicles, so there are some functions that you're not likely to use when it is fitted to a caravan. Others, however – such as tracking the route the vehicle has taken – might be of interest, just for curiosity and keeping your own log of the distance that your caravan has travelled.

Although it isn't quite as sophisticated as some factory-fitted units, the DB2 works well and should alert you to any unauthorised movements of your van.

Of course, it would also be possible to hide the device away, so it would be much harder to find, but I suspect few thieves initially start looking for tracker units when they are in the process of trying to steal a caravan, so hopefully they would overlook the obvious.

I must admit that I was very impressed with how quickly the DB2 picked up the GPS signal and warned me of the unit being moved. I'm now tempted to buy a second device and fit it to our car!



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### HOW TO... FIT A SAFE

Installing a small safe in your caravan is a sensible precaution and here, Tony Brown shows you how easily it can be done

DO YOU SOMETIMES WONDER where to put passports, credit cards and cash when you decide to visit the campsite pool for a swim or a sunbathe?

Take your valuables with you and you risk some opportunist stealing your bag, but leave them behind and equally, you risk losing them in a burglary.

Caravanners who enjoy wild camping will also have read of break-ins during the night, when wallets and bags have been stolen while the owners sleep.

I used to think there was little point providing a secure place inside the van, because caravans were so easy to tow away, but the advent of high-security hitches and chassis-attaching wheel locks has changed my mind - I now think that it has become a sensible precaution.

#### **Choosing your safe**

I am not going to prescribe where to install a safe - every caravan and every owner is different, and you will want to find your own preferred place - but I will run through aspects to take into account before you buy one.

It would be pretty pointless to choose something of a cash box standard, which



could be opened by someone using items from your cutlery drawer. So begin by searching online for the smallest, lightest domestic safe with a reasonable lock.

Digital safes avoid the need for a key, but are sometimes criticised for having poor-quality override locks. The highest quality is not necessary, though, because in the unlikely event that you are faced with a very determined thief armed with an angle grinder, nothing will be secure.

My choice was a Cathedral key-locking safe from Ryman, costing just £27.99.

Tony's six-litre, key-locking Cathedral safe is strong. lightweight and compact, for easy concealment

Weighing in at under 3kg, it is strong and light (so won't eat up much payload), with unusual keys, and measuring only 150 x 200 x 200mm, is small enough to hide away quite easily in the van.

There is also little doubt that skill in finding a well-hidden location for your safe is your best protection. It might take a long time sitting in your van thinking and searching, before you find a place. You might need to consider removing some trim to fit the safe, then adding extra trim to conceal it afterwards.

#### Find a secure fixing

Although not always compatible with a good hiding place, it is also vital to find something secure to anchor your safe to. The floor offers the most secure fixing, with through bolts and a plate below, but lengths of hidden steel studding or good-quality bicycle cable fastened underfloor and fixed in the safe give some flexibility in positioning it near, but not on, the floor.

#### Accessibility

The best hidden, most securely fixed safe is no use if you can't get to it. Installation is going to be a compromise between a well-hidden place offering secure fixing, and somewhere that's easy to access.

#### 'Skill in finding a well-hidden location for your safe is your best protection'



ABOVE Fitting the safe in an overhead locker would be convenient, but difficult to hide and fix to something secure RIGHT Extension bolts can be fitted under the floor and bolted inside the safe to prevent its easy removal





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### \* STORING YOUR TOURER SECURELY

When you're not touring, peace of mind means knowing your van is safely stored. Here, John Sootheran outlines the options and essential questions to consider

CARAVAN OWNERS are in a constant battle to outwit thieves who want to steal their tourers. Here are some tactics to turn the odds in your favour and keep your treasure as safe as houses, whether you're planning to store your caravan at a dedicated site, or on your driveway.

#### **High-value items**

CUT OUT

and Keep Guide!

> Caravans are valuable. To you, that value lies in the freedom they bring and the life-long memories they help you create. To a minority of others, it is measured in pounds and pence – whatever they can get for your van once they relieve you of it.

The average caravan spends most of its life in storage, with just a few weeks or months each year on tour, so it's really important to choose your method of storage with the utmost care. This guide explores the storage options open to you, and provides details on the things you should think about and look for when you're choosing.

#### Storing at home

Many caravanners will store their leisure vehicle at home, on the driveway or in spaces created in their garden.

The benefits of this are manifold: you save money, your van is right there when you want to load it up ready for a trip, or carry out maintenance and cleaning; and you can keep an eye on it yourself.

But there are downsides to storing it at home. Your caravan is at far more risk there than it would be in formal secure storage. Each year, thousands of vans are stolen from the owner's property, but just a handful go from specialist facilities. Storing at home is also likely to increase your insurance costs, and when you do go away in the van, it's very clear to thieves that you're not at home.

If you can store at home, and it is your preferred option, it's advisable to apply some additional security measures.

For a start, position your tourer with the hitch-head facing away from the road, so a potential thief can't just reverse a tow vehicle up to it, hitch up and tow it away. A motor mover is useful to manoeuvre your tourer into a position where it can't easily be moved out onto the road.

Consider protecting your home storage space with a passive infrared (PIR) light, which triggers if anyone gets close to your caravan. CCTV is also relatively cheap these days. This links to your home Wi-Fi, and the images are stored on a hard drive



A hitch lock is one of the essentials

A motor mover will help you manoeuvre your tourer into place, so it can't easily be hauled onto the road

'The safest place to lay up your caravan is in a dedicated storage facility

and/or in the cloud. PIR lights and CCTV cameras should be mounted high on a wall or post, well out of reach. Some PIR lights also offer a warning-chime option inside the home, if your caravan is approached.

As well as all of the essential security devices, including a hitch lock and wheel lock, a security post adds an additional hassle factor for any would-be thief. For more about security devices, see p96.

#### **Remote storage**

Cheap caravan storage is often available on farms and smallholdings as property owners seek to diversify. These locations might not have formal security systems, and their remoteness is both a pro and a con. Such places can be safe, especially on busy farms that are always occupied, but if the farm is ever left empty, your caravan is at greater risk.

Thieves can use online satellite imaging to scan for potential targets parked on drives or in remote locations, so 'out of sight' won't always be 'out of mind'.

If you do store your caravan remotely, aim to take the same precautions that you would if you were keeping it at home, and bear in mind that because your van is unlikely to be

easily accessible on a regular basis, you will need to keep an eye on battery charging, general maintenance and so on.

#### Secure storage

The safest place to lay up your caravan is in a dedicated storage facility. The very best of these come with a whole suite of security measures to deter thieves and keep stored vehicles as safe as possible.

It's worth looking out for a CaSSOA member site. CaSSOA (cassoa.co.uk) has around 500 members at independent locations around the UK, graded Bronze, Silver, Gold and now Platinum, depending on the level of security they offer.

Expanding the ratings became necessary as new and innovative security systems are developed, and the 'best of the best' vehicle storage sites embrace them.

Other than checking its CaSSOA member credentials, there are a few things to bear in mind when choosing your site.

#### Inside or outdoors?

Good-quality indoor storage has to be the ultimate option (both for security and for maintaining your caravan's condition), but this is likely to be costly and in demand.

If you are opting instead for storage at a working farm or warehouse, ensure that your van is safely away from moving vehicles, such as forklifts and tractors, and give some thought to fire safety, too.

#### What's the fencing like?

Anti-climb, 2.4m-high palisade steel fencing is considered one of the best options for securing a storage facility.

This type of fencing is strong and when properly constructed, also very resistant to being rammed or ripped out.

Ideally, climbable trees should not overhang either the fencing or the site.

#### What are the gates like?

Any storage facility should have strong and secure gates, and preferably, only one entry and exit point.

The best of these operate like an airlock system, where each gate will only open when the other has been closed.

You pull past the first open gate, which then closes behind you, before the gate in front can be opened. This is a major deterrent to caravan thieves, because they remain very vulnerable while they are 'locked in' between the two gates. >>

'Anyone who's ever had a caravan stolen, damaged or burgled knows what a huge hassle it can be to sort everything out'

#### What's the lighting like?

Lighting at your storage location will be another important feature. PIR-activated lights are better than fixed floodlights, because they will alert staff to intrusions when they come on, and can give thieves an unwelcome surprise when they are suddenly illuminated.

#### Are there CCTV cameras?

The perimeter and the inner area of the storage site should have CCTV coverage. The latest cameras have night-vision capability and high-resolution imagery, which can, for example, capture facial details or vehicle numberplates.

#### How do the alarms work?

The very best of the secure storage sites should have monitored alarm systems, which are designed to alert both the staff and the local police as soon as anything untoward might be happening.



#### What is the access like?

At which times of day can you access your caravan, if, say, you need an early start to catch the ferry? The better sites will offer customers excellent flexibility, even if this is by prior arrangement.

In addition, does the facility have wide roadways, to make entry and exit easier and safer when you are towing?

#### On what surface will vans be stored?

Will your caravan be kept in a grassy field or on hardstanding? Will you be able to retrieve it easily following heavy rain?



Robust fencing and electronic gates all contribute to the level of security on offer at a site

Take a careful look around the site before you make your choice

#### Are other services available?

Does the site you're considering offer extra services, such as leisure vehicle cleaning and servicing?

The best will have arrangements with trusted, AWS-approved mobile caravan technicians, who can visit the facility to service your tourer. They can also arrange for replacement tyres and repairs to minor body damage, dings and scuffs.

Likewise, many sites offer a caravan cleaning service, and some also stock gas bottles, so you'll never be caught short. Together, these caravan-storage services help to ensure maximum security and convenience, at all times.

#### How much will it cost?

The price of high-quality secure caravan storage depends very much on where you are in the country, your unit and the level of security on offer. You can expect to pay £200 to £700 a year in the north, and £350 to £1000-plus in the south-east.

#### Summary

Anyone who's ever had a caravan stolen, damaged or burgled knows what a huge hassle it can be to sort everything out afterwards. For example, I know one couple with a much-loved older van, who had all of the sofa bases and backs stolen while it was in remote storage.

These proved a huge problem to replace, and they lost an entire season of caravanning while it was resolved. Caravanners with this kind of experience know the value of quality secure storage.

Budget might be the deciding factor in how and where you store your tourer, but there's no doubt, well-run, bespoke secure facilities are the safest option.

If that's not viable, however, follow our advice on making your caravan as secure as possible in other storage locations.

### PERSONAL SECURITY ON TOUR

It's certainly important to protect your caravan, but ensuring your personal safety is also crucial. Tony Brown passes on a few tips

ON HOLIDAY, you want to focus on rest and relaxation - not worrying about your cash and your kit. And what a disaster it could be, if you were to lose some or all of your portable valuables.

It is, of course, best to leave jewellery at home, but there are some things you can't do without while you're away.

Lose your passports and you'll need to seek out a British embassy and pay £100 each for an emergency travel document. This is valid for one trip home; there will be extra costs renewing your passports.

If your cash is stolen, it is unlikely to be covered by travel insurance, while lost cards are a hassle to cancel and renew.

Loss of keys does not bear thinking about. Replacing a car's locks alone can cost hundreds, never mind caravan and house locks. Safe carriage of handbags and mobiles also needs consideration.

#### **Passports, cash, cards**

It is best if at least one of you has a large belt pouch, worn under the clothes, to keep passports, cash, Travellers Cheques and credit cards safe, with small amounts of ready money kept in your pocket. This takes some thinking ahead, but you can



ABOVE This belt pouch is easy to make, but very effective for carrying valuables RIGHT Keeping all of your keys safe is another essential for stress-free touring



by the loss of a wallet

#### 'There are some things you simply can't do without while you're away'

usually find a quiet place where you can pull out your pouch and replenish cash and so on, when necessary.

#### Handy belt pouch

An excellent pouch for these items can be made from a 330 x 170mm piece of chamois leather. You'll also need strong, 10mm, synthetic tape for the belt loops.

Cut out the leather (pictured left) and prepare two 320mm lengths of tape, which should be temporarily fixed in position. Next, cut a width of Velcro



and stitch it to the front of the pouch, where the flap will close. Use a simple running stitch with strong, synthetic thread to sew around the two open sides, then go back over this to complete the stitches. Turn the pouch inside out, ready for use, and add the other Velcro element to the inside of the flap.

CUT OUT

AND KEEP GUIDE!

To use it, rest the empty pouch, facing forwards with the tape loops overlapping the trouser belt, just to one side of the centreline. Pass one tape loop through a belt loop, then roll up the pouch and pass it through the end of the tape loop.

Pulling this tight, you form a positive knot to the trouser belt loop, so if you are required to remove your belt for any security screening, you will know that your pouch is still securely in place.

#### **Keys and phones**

You could use a key chain, but they are short, obtrusive and easily tangled. A far better option is a 1.2m length of 3mm nylon cord, in a dark colour. About the thickness of a bootlace, this will be long enough for a small keyring loop at one end and a larger belt loop at the other.

Phones are more difficult, particularly if you spend a lot of time using them! The risks are twofold – if your pocket is picked and you don't immediately notice your phone has been stolen, the thief could run up a huge bill on your account. Or you could have it snatched from your hand. The simple advice is not to carry your phone in a back pocket where it is visible, and to avoid walking around with it in your hand. If you can, stand with your back to a wall while using it, so you can spot anyone approaching you - that includes thieves on mopeds or bicycles.

#### **Handbags**

If possible, decant the essential items from your handbag into a small, slim bag with a long strap, which you can carry across the body. And if you can, it helps to wear a jacket or jersey over it.

Keep valuables to a minimum and never put your bag on the back of a chair or on the ground when you sit down - if you do take it off, it is safer on your knee.



# SECURITY EQUIPMENT

There's a wealth of clever gadgets available to help keep you, your outfit and your belongings safe on tour, and give you greater peace of mind



#### iTrack Mini GPS Tracker

This nifty little device monitors the position of your caravan and sends Google Map reports via SMS, or tracks it live on the free app. Suitable for your vehicle, bike or any other asset that you might want to track. **Price** £45 **Web** amazon.co.uk



#### **Purpleline Nemesis Ultra**

Keep your insurer happy by fitting a strong, high-vis wheel lock. The Nemesis Ultra from Purpleline uses a single replacement wheel-nut to secure the unit to the face of the wheel, while a steel shaft slides between the spokes to stop the wheel rotating. **Price** £149.95 **Web** purpleline.co.uk



#### It's not just a home-from-home that needs protecting while you're on tour! This clever camera sends you an alert if intruders are detected in your house, as well as a video and a picture of their faces. **Price £179.99 Web** netatmo.com



#### **Biometric padlock**

This robust lock uses your thumbprint for personalised security for up to 10 users – great for bikes and roofboxes, to help keep your kit safe and secure when you're pitched up on site. **Price** £137.15 **Web** masterlock.eu



#### **Defender plug-in TV**

This device is a small but very effective security measure. Plug it into a mains socket in your caravan. Switch on and its LEDs emit coloured light that makes it look as though you are watching TV in your van, when you are actually out and about. **Price** £14.95 **Web** defendersecurityproducts.co.uk

#### **Master Lock 5900 Series Portable Safe**

Secure your valuables with the Master Lock 5900 Series Portable Safe, a 'handheld fortress' to take care of precious items. It's small, but the perfect size for your passports, credit cards, watches and more. Price £30.55 Web masterlock.eu



#### Dometic 361C Safe

SMS

This mechanical safe has a capacity of 24 litres and is suitable for storing a 15-inch laptop – ideal security for your vehicle valuables. It weighs 11kg and features a key-operated locking mechanism and two 18mm solid steel bolts. **Price** £215 Web cooltechleisure.co.uk



#### Milenco **Security Handrail** This large, robust handrail

has a unique twin-locking design for ultimate security. In the open position, it provides a sturdy grab handle. High-security locks provide countermeasures against bump keys. **Price** £89.06 Web towsure.com



#### **Milenco 3004 Hitchlock**

You can't fit too many security gadgets to your van – they will help prevent theft and keep your insurance valid, too. If you have an Al-Ko hitch, take a look at the Milenco Super Heavy-Duty lock: it fits around the hitch to help stop thieves towing the caravan away. Price £102.95 Web towsure.com

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