

# Caravan theft prevention advice



- Consider having a tracking device fitted so that the caravan can be traced if it is stolen, some systems can be “geo-fenced” so that when a caravan is moved out of a designated area it raises an alarm. All caravans manufactured since 1997 have been electronically tagged (RFID).
- All caravans manufactured in the UK since 1992 have a 17-digit Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme number (CRiS) etched onto the vehicle chassis and windows. Write your vehicle identification number (VIN) in several hidden places within the caravan. Use a permanent marker to write the VIN on the underside of drawers, in cupboards, and wooden surfaces This makes the caravan easy to identify if it’s stolen.
- Consider having the CRiS number put on the roof of your caravan, many Police areas use helicopters now.
- Have a reliable alarm fitted and switch it on whenever you leave your caravan, even if only for a few minutes.
- Most European manufactured caravans do not have a CRiS number on them. There is some evidence that some brands of European manufactured caravans are more at risk from theft.
- Lock the caravan coupling head into a cover using a good quality hitch lock. Fit lockable wheel nuts or wheel clamps to the wheels. Padlock gas cylinders to fixing clamps.
- Always lock all doors and windows every time you leave your caravan. Always lock your roof light and gas compartment as well.
- There are locking handrails that may not only be a good deterrent to theft but also aid you in getting in and out. <http://www.milenco.com/products/security-hand-rail/> and [http://www.thule.com/en/es/products/rv-accessories/securityproducts/thule-hand-rail\\_-308892](http://www.thule.com/en/es/products/rv-accessories/securityproducts/thule-hand-rail_-308892)



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- Put the immobiliser on when the caravan is parked, and when you stop for short periods. Caravans have been stolen whilst unattended whilst parked at home for cleaning or just prior to setting off.
- Keep your caravan keys with you when you leave your caravan.
- Take valuables with you when you leave the caravan. If you can't, lock them away in a cupboard out of sight.
- Any property left in the premises such as TVs, DVD players, game consoles etc should be registered for free on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) should the items be stolen and subsequently recovered this will help the Police return to the rightful owner. In addition keep a record of the make, model and serial number.
- Some IT comes with factory installed security and tracking, in some cases it's free so remember to activate it.
- At home, always keep caravan keys in a safe place out of sight from windows and doors.
- When your caravan is not in use, leave curtains and cupboard doors open – thieves can be put off by a caravan that is obviously empty.
- Never leave vehicle registration documents inside the caravan. They can help a thief to sell the caravan.
- If storing a caravan try to use a Cassoa Gold facility for peace of mind [http://www.cassoa.co.uk/Caravan\\_Storage\\_Home.aspx](http://www.cassoa.co.uk/Caravan_Storage_Home.aspx) .
- If parked on your property make it difficult for the thief, if possible face the tow hitch way from the road and consider a collapsible post or even lockable hoop that can secure over the tow hitch.
- If you sell your caravan, be aware of Fraud. Never part with your caravan until the cheque has cleared.
- If you have a double axle van or trailer, the wheelclamp should be fitted to the rear wheel
- Look out for each other's caravans off and on site and report anything suspicious to the site manager or the police using the national non emergency police telephone number of 101, in the case of an emergency dial 999. Call Crimestoppers if you wish to remain anonymous, on 0800 555 111.

**[www.caravan-advice.co.uk/caravan-security.html](http://www.caravan-advice.co.uk/caravan-security.html)**

**[www.caravanclub.co.uk/expert-advice/using-and-maintaining/safety-and-security/](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk/expert-advice/using-and-maintaining/safety-and-security/)**

**[www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/vehicles/caravans](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/vehicles/caravans)**