

Did you know that you're already a member of the Ashburnham Triangle Association? The ATA is a community association. Everyone who lives or works in the Triangle is automatically a member of the ATA.

Go to our website www.ashburnhamtriangle.com and subscribe to our mailing list to get regular updates or 'like us' on Facebook.



Use the following voucher to claim your 10% off car, and motorbike security devices exclusively at Halfords

EXCLUSIVE OFFER	At Halfords, Unit 4, Stonelake Retail Park, 601, Woolwich Road, Charlton SE7 8LU
EXTRA 10% OFF ALL CAR & MOTORBIKE SECURITY PRODUCTS	halfords for life's journeys

Terms & conditions:

1. Voucher must be redeemed by 28th February 2018 inclusive.
2. May not be used in conjunction with any other voucher, discount or promotion code (e.g. colleague discount or web exclusive promotions) but can be used in conjunction with normal store offers.
3. Only one voucher may be redeemed per transaction
4. Photocopies of this voucher are not acceptable
5. Voucher only redeemable at Halfords Charlton Store, excludes online use.

Promoter: Halfords Ltd, Icknield Street Drive, Washford West, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 0DE

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Motor Vehicle Crime, that is the theft from and the theft of cars, bikes, motorcycles, mopeds and scooters is a particular problem in the Triangle and on the increase in Greenwich West.

According to David Hammond, a car security expert at Halfords, organised gangs have mastered how to get around high-tech security devices, leading to a significant rise in car thefts across the UK.

It may be difficult to protect your motor vehicle from a determined, professional thief, but in most cases motor vehicle crime is committed by opportunists who often take less than a minute to get into or steal a vehicle. These tips should help you keep your vehicle secure and avoid theft or criminal damage.

For your exclusive 10% discount voucher off all Halfords car and motorbike security products see the back page of this booklet.

Top Tips For Keeping Your Vehicle Safe

When car security improved in the 1990s, it became necessary to steal the car keys first, by breaking into someone's home. Now thieves don't need your key, just a blank one they can electronically reprogram with an online-sourced OBD (on-board diagnostics) device, which then enables them to just drive off in the vehicle.

Theft of cars with keyless entry systems are very common. The motor insurance industry's research centre at Thatcham, Berks, has come up with a few recommendations to stop this.

- Contact your dealer to check for any security software updates for your car.
- Ask if your keyless entry fob can be turned off overnight.
- Store your fob well away from doors and windows. Thieves only need to get close to a fob to amplify its signal.

Car theft is a very serious problem. Last year £1.5 billion in criminal profit was generated by car theft in the UK.

Love it? Then lock it

- Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open.



Fob them off

- Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away. If unsure, lock it manually.

Never leave anything on display when you park your car

- It may seem obvious but several thefts from cars have taken place recently within the **Ashburnham Triangle** with personal possessions such as bags and clothing left on seats. Electronic tablets, mobiles and laptops should never be left in plain view. Always remove charging cables for smart phones and sat navs as this is a hint to a would-be thief that there is something of value inside the car. Never leave valuables such as cash, credit cards, mobile phones or vehicle documents, especially your log book in an unattended vehicle. **Do not** leave Blue Badges on display when they're not in use. **One car was even stolen with the keys left inside!** **Never** leave your keys in the car, even for a second.

Stolen Bikes in the UK (<https://stolen-bikes.co.uk>) will help to spread the word on the theft of your bike and offer you advice to help get it back.

Bikeshd (<http://www.bikeshd.co.uk>) and **Find that bike** (<http://www.findthatbike.co.uk>) both list adverts for bikes placed on online marketplaces, which you can check frequently to see if yours has been listed for sale.

Adverts are usually placed within 24 hours of the theft but if not, keep looking as they sometimes take a few months to pop up.

It might also be worth visiting and posting on the following forums:

Ride.cc Bike Forum - <http://road.cc/forums/roadcc-bike-forum>

Bikeradar - <http://www.bikeradar.com/forums/>

London Fixed Gear and Single-Speed - <https://www.lfgss.com>

CycleChat - <https://www.cyclechat.net>

For further information and preventive tips please visit the **Vehicle Crime** page on the Metropolitan Police website.

<https://www.met.police.uk>



If you have any information regarding any criminal activity you can report it to Crimestoppers. Remember your call is confidential and you can remain anonymous. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Useful Links:

<http://www.halfords.com>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/crime-prevention> (Useful crime prevention advice can be found on the crime reduction website)

www.soldsecure.com (List of recognised security products)

www.thatcham.org (The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre)

• Contact and website details are current and correct at the time of going to print (January 2018) but may be subject to change.



Working together for a safer London

Tops Tips for Bicycle Security

If you've ever had your bike stolen you'll know how upsetting it can be. Here you'll find advice on keeping your bike safe and out of the hands of thieves – as well as what to do to try to get it back if it is stolen.

Register it

- Get your bike security marked and registered at **BikeRegister** (<https://www.bikeregister.com/register>). It's a highly effective, visible deterrent to bike thieves. Details of your bike such as the frame number, the **BikeRegister** number plus any other distinguishing features can be recorded on this website.
- **Immobilise** (<https://www.immobilise.com>) is another free site where you can register your bike's details.

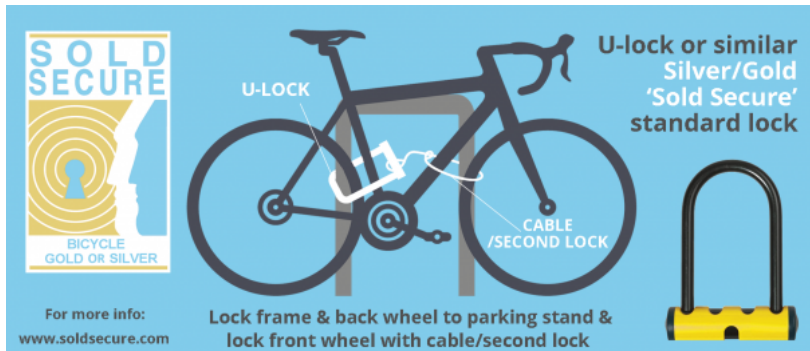


Double-lock it

- Use **two** good quality locks, such as 'Gold Sold Secure' high quality D-lock round the rear wheel and frame and a cable lock round the front wheel and frame.

Secure it

- Secure your bike as close to the stand or immovable object (i.e. lamp post) as possible to give any thieves little or no room to manoeuvre.



Remove the removable bits

- Take parts that are easy to remove with you. Or use locking skewers or nuts which can increase security by securing the bike's components to the frame permanently, making it difficult for thieves to steal detachable parts.

Remember safety begins at home

- Take the same care to lock your bike securely at home as you would on the street.

The top 5 most common items stolen from vehicles are:

- *Electrical items - Laptops, portable navigation units and mobile phones*
- *Unattended bags left in view - documents such as disabled badges (Blue Badge)*
- *Number plates*
- *Alloy wheels*
- *Catalytic converters (part of the exhaust system)*



Park responsibly

- It's always advisable to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. It's worth parking in a well-lit and busier street even if it means walking an extra five or ten minutes. Always try to park in illuminated and staffed car parks or those with a Park Mark safer parking award. Check out the Park Mark website for more information and to find 'marked' car parks <http://www.parkmark.co.uk/>

Steering Locks and Wheel Nuts

- Bear in mind that built-in steering locks aren't necessarily thief-proof. Many can be forced and broken. Anti-theft devices such as steering wheel locks have been around for years and are still a very effective visible deterrent. Fitting a **Sold Secure** steering wheel, gear lever or clutch pedal security device can give your vehicle added protection.
- Locking wheel nuts are cheap, easy to fit and stop thieves from taking your wheels.

Car Alarms, Immobilisers

- Car alarms deter thieves from stealing your car and also taking items from it. Electronic engine immobilisers prevent your car from starting without the original key and are the best way to stop thieves. They should be professionally fitted by an approved installer.

Security on the move

- If your car does not automatically lock as soon as you start driving, for peace of mind, manually lock your car doors especially whilst driving through busy town centres. This will stop any opportunist thief from helping themselves to bags etc left on passenger seats whilst in stationary traffic.

★ **DID YOU KNOW** it is actually illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather under the Road Traffic Act offence 1988 of 'quitting' and could be fined £50. (Offence Code RC86011).

Top Tips to protect your motorcycle, moped or scooter from theft

Use two or more security measures

- It takes a matter of seconds for a thief to steal a moped, scooter or motorcycle, especially if they are left either unsecured or with inadequate security. The Metropolitan Police recommend using a chain lock on your back wheel and through your bike frame, plus one other security measure, as a **minimum**.

Remove the keys

- Obvious, but thieves are often opportunists and so they will look for bikes that are quick and easy to steal first. Always use the steering lock and remove the ignition keys, even if you are close by or away for a few minutes.

Lock your bike

- Never rely on just using your steering lock to secure your bike. Thieves can break the steering lock and simply wheel the bike away.
- When you park your bike secure your chain, disc lock, U shackle, clutch grip etc and set your alarm or immobiliser and ensure your tracking device is working.
- Use a chain lock through the back wheel (the front wheel can be removed easily). Where possible, secure your bike with the lock off the ground, to an immovable object such as a ground anchor, railings or lamp post, which will also stop thieves from just picking the whole bike up.
- If these options aren't available, always try to thread the chain through your bike frame and back wheel, if the design allows it. This helps protect parts being stolen and stops thieves from simply using a hammer or angle grinder to break the lock if it's left trailing on the ground.
- Using a disc lock helps to secure the front brake disc to physically stop it from being wheeled away. Use a grip lock to secure the brake and throttle controls.



Example of front brake disc lock

★ **TIP** Look for the words 'Case-Hardened' on any lock you buy. The metals in these locks have gone through a special treatment process which makes them harder to cut with hand tools.

Use a cover

- Thieves often 'shop' for particular bike models, so using a bike cover instantly makes it less attractive to them, as they can't see if it's the model they are interested in. A cover also provides another time consuming obstacle for the thief.

Fitting an alarm can be a deterrent

- Consider fitting a Thatcham rated 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors which can help protect and trace your vehicle, but could also reduce your insurance premiums.

Mark your Bike

- Marking as much of your bike as possible, with both covert and overt marking makes it more difficult for criminals to sell parts on, and therefore less attractive to steal. It will also help police identify parts and return recovered stolen bikes.
- There are a range of bike marking providers that you can use such as Selecta DNA.



Fit an ignition cut-out switch

- Many attempts to take bikes by starting and riding them away have been abandoned by thieves where owners have devised their own individual security such as cut out switches that prevent the engine being started.

When at home

The best place to keep your motorcycle, moped or scooter is in your garage or shed. Garage thieves work mainly at night so make sure it is secure.

- Fit a garage door defender or upgrade garage door locks.
- Garage and shed alarms as well as low level dusk to dawn lighting will also enhance security. Fitting a ground anchor also provides extra security.
- Motorcycle lockers are also available to store your bike at home.
- Security lights can also put a potential thief off.

No shed or garage? Park in the safest place you can

Park it in an area near to your home where it's well overlooked with good lighting and make sure it is covered with the alarm set.

★ **REMEMBER**, the more visible the security, the less visible your motorbike, moped or scooter is to thieves: adding extra security makes it harder for them to steal.

Help us to reduce further crime

Stolen mopeds and/or scooters are increasingly being used to commit further crimes, such as phone snatches. Crime involving these vehicles has gone up by more than 600% in London in the past two years. This problem shows no signs of slowing at present but by protecting your moped and/or scooter you could help to reduce these other crimes.