

MOTORBIKE AND SCOOTER SECURITY



Advice from Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit



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Introduction

More motorbikes and scooters are stolen than cars, and fewer are recovered unfortunately. But theft doesn't have to be an inevitable part of owning a motorbike or scooter.

Vehicle crime is often opportunist, but you can outsmart most criminals by following the simple advice in this guide.

A tempting target

Motorbikes and scooters can be an easy target for thieves if they are not secured. They can be wheeled away or bundled into a van within seconds.

The last thing any rider wants is for their pride and joy to be stolen. Motorbike and scooter theft is big business for criminals so it is important to take steps to protect your vehicle and choose appropriate and effective security options.

Security tips

If your motorbike or scooter doesn't already have one, get a Thatcham or Sold Secure approved electronic immobiliser professionally fitted. Ask your insurance company which devices they would recommend that will not invalidate your policy.

If you have a security device fitted, always use it. A wide variety of locks can be used, such as chains or padlocks, disc locks and D locks. The most important thing to remember is to secure your motorbike to a solid object that can't be moved.

Always put your steering lock on.

When you are not using your motorbike or scooter, put it in your garage or a secure outbuilding with a fixed or ground anchor to secure it to inside the building. If you can, fit a good lock and an alarm system to your garage or outbuilding.

Don't leave your garage open and make sure your vehicle is covered up, even when you are at home. Some motorbikes and scooters are stolen to order, so a motorbike spotted by a thief today could be stolen tomorrow.

Safer parking

Whenever possible, avoid leaving your helmet or other accessories on your motorbike or scooter or in luggage space on panniers.

If you are parking your bike, leave your seat open so that thieves do not break the seat lock if they target your vehicle and search for items to steal.

Use a parking space built specially for motorbikes or scooters. They will have stands or security loops.

Look for one that has achieved the police approved safer parking award - **Park Mark**. This is an initiative backed by the Association of Chief Police Officers and aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities.

This blue sign indicates car parks and spaces that have achieved the required standard.

Find out more at www.parkmark.co.uk



Securing your motorbike or scooter



Immobilise

The national property database Immobilise enables police to reunite stolen items with their rightful owners.

When police recover suspected stolen items, they check them against those registered on the database to see if they can locate the owner.

You can register almost any kind of item on the database for **free**.

Document the serial number of your bike or scooter and upload a photograph of it to help police reunite you with it if it is stolen and later recovered. You can also register off-road bikes, such as trial, motorcross and enduro bikes.

To register your property on the Immobilise database, visit www.immobilise.com

Contact Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit for more information and advice on all of these security options.

Security marking and devices

It is a good idea to security mark your vehicle and as many parts of it as possible.

Use an engraving kit or a security marker pen to mark your motorbike or scooter with identifying details, such as the vehicle registration number or your postcode.

There are companies that provide ultraviolet marking and tagging kits that can mark your machine and its component parts. Some apply a microdot or an ultraviolet liquid to your bike so the police can identify the owner. Others etch a code on your bike or scooter's panels to make it harder for a thief to sell on.

Search online for suppliers that can do this for you and offer specialist advice.

Engine cut-off switch

Fit this switch after you have bought your vehicle so a potential thief doesn't know where it is located on your motorbike or scooter.

Alarm

Alarms are not always the cure-all they are sold as. If no one hears it, it is not effective. If someone does hear it, they often ignore it.

Particularly effective alarms are:

Paging alarm - sends an alert to a pager if the alarm is triggered.

Talking alarm - emits a spoken warning if your vehicle is touched and then sounds an alarm.

Visit the Secured by Design website for products approved by the police

www.securedbydesign.com



Buying and selling

Buying a second-hand motorbike or scooter

Ask yourself these questions before buying:

- Has the frame or engine number been tampered with?
- Have you seen the original registration document?
- If you have, does it look genuine? Is there a watermark? Have any alterations been made to it?
- Is the seller's name on the registration document? If not, why not?

You can protect yourself by following this advice.

- Consider checking with private companies that hold information on whether a specific vehicle has been reported stolen, seriously damaged or is still subject to a finance agreement.
- Arrange to meet the seller at their house, not at your house or another meeting place.
- Ask to see proof of the seller's identity and address, for example, a driving licence or utility bill.

Buying a new motorbike or scooter

Ask yourself these questions before buying:

- Does it have an insurer approved alarm, immobiliser or security device? Check with your insurance company before you buy to find out which security features will not affect your premium or cover.
- Does it have an insurer or police approved security marking system?
- What other security features does the vehicle come with? Are they approved by police and/or insurance companies?



Riding your motorbike or scooter

- When riding, keep your valuables hidden to prevent them from being snatched.
- Let a friend or relative know where you are going and what time you expect to be back.
- If you stick to a daily routine, try to vary where you park.
- Plan ahead. Find out where Park Mark car parks are if you are travelling to an unfamiliar place.

Nottinghamshire Alert

Nottinghamshire Alert is a system which allows Nottinghamshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch in Nottinghamshire and other organisations that work for the public to send community safety messages to you quickly and efficiently.

If you are interested in getting updates on major incidents, advice on crime prevention and community safety and alerts about criminals operating in your area, make sure you are registered with the system.

You can report antisocial behaviour in your area and receive responses from police about the incident you have reported and find out how to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or set up your own in your street by registering.

What do I get?

- A totally free service — you can control your message settings and choose to receive alerts via email, text message to your mobile phone or recorded voicemail. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- Information about crime trends, incidents and appeals from authorised police officers and police staff.
- Report suspicious and antisocial behaviour (not crime), receive updates and responses about them.
- Start, manage or request to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area.
- Configure how, when and which messages you'd like to receive.

If you want to know more about Nottinghamshire Alert, contact Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit.

Tel: 101, extension 800 3011

Email: nottinghamshirealert@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To register for Nottinghamshire Alert, visit www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk

If you would like a paper copy of the registration form, call **101** or visit your local police station to request one.

For more advice on crime prevention contact

Nottinghamshire Police's Pre Crime Unit
Arrow Centre
Hucknall
Nottinghamshire
NG15 8AY

Tel: **101**

Tell us what priorities you want your local police to focus on with our online survey

www.neighbourhoodprioritysurvey.co.uk

If you have information about criminals operating in your area, call Crimestoppers anonymously on

0800 555 111