

TOP TIPS

- If you own the vehicle ensure you are covered by the insurance
- Stay alert - check your surroundings
- Always remove the keys and lock the vehicle
- Remove valuables, or ensure none are on display
- Physical security - check that the locks work and report any defects



The people who operate delivery vehicles face the possibility of being the victims of crime.

Delivery vehicles can be targeted and are at risk of having the vehicle broken into for the contents or having the vehicle stolen.

Most crimes of this type occur between the hours of noon and 4 p.m. while the driver is alone.



Check your vehicle is properly insured

All vehicles need to be covered with insurance, but you need a tailored policy that reflects the unique needs of your business and protects against the associated risks. After all, you don't want to be left out of pocket should anything happen to your van.



Stay Alert

If you spot a suspicious vehicle following you, don't exit the vehicle. Keep doors locked, keep moving, and call the police.

Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged, in case you need it in an emergency.

If something does not look or feel right, do not make the delivery.

Agree a daily delivery plan with employers or, if independent, with a family member and check in with them regularly. If possible, when out delivering consider using alternative routes rather than always going the same way.

Always lock up

Always take the keys out of the ignition and lock the vehicle - it takes seconds for a thief to get into your vehicle and make off with something valuable or the vehicle itself.

Consider installing a tracker - if the worst were to occur and your vehicle were to be stolen, a tracker might enable officers to quickly locate it.

As a courier, you'll be parking up numerous times every day to deliver goods to your customers. It's not feasible to park in secure public car parks each time, but you should still try to find the safest spot every time you stop.

If possible, avoid dark or quiet streets, instead opting for well-lit areas with lots of people around and ideally in view of a CCTV camera. If you can block some of the doors when parking up, that's also a bonus.

At the end of each shift, it's far more secure to park your van on a driveway if you have one, or even better, in your garage. Again, you could see your insurance premium lowered if you state that you park your van on your private property as opposed to a public road overnight.





Remove valuables

Always remove valuable items where possible. Make sure that no valuables are left on display when leaving your courier van (for any amount of time) and fully close all of the windows.

Even when parking on your driveway overnight, it's a good idea to remove items like sat-navs, stereos or dash cams if they aren't built into your vehicle. Signs and stickers stating 'no valuables left in this vehicle overnight' are a good deterrent.



Physical Security

Check that your locks work and report any defects. Upgrading locks and alarm systems will provide your vehicle and contents with additional security.

If your dealer notifies you of vehicle security upgrades, ensure you install them.

Installing Window Grilles, Blanks and Bulkheads prevents thieves from seeing what is inside your vehicle. A window Grille will prevent access if the window has been smashed.

Doors are one of the most vulnerable areas on delivery vans and they can sometimes be forced open, so consider installing a stop lock or a slam lock to help make it harder for criminals to get inside.



Always Report Crime to the Police

Always report crime to police. Crimes involving the theft of parcels from the vehicle should be reported as a 'theft of mail'. This allows police to capture the data and understand the full scale of the crime, which in turn informs their resources and tactics to tackle it.

When a crime is taking place, dial 999 in an emergency. You can also report to the Police on 101 or alternatively, you can report online at: www.police.uk

Police recommended security products can be found at: www.securedbydesign.com

