

# Police

## Warn Drivers Against SatNav Theft



Police in Berkshire have warned drivers with Satellite Navigation Systems to be on their guard against opportunist thieves. Both Maidenhead and Wokingham have experienced a marked increase in theft of these devices as observant criminals spot the tell-tale marks left behind on the windscreen when the SatNav is not in operation. Thefts in the Royal Borough alone have more than trebled since January 2006.

**SatNav theft fast becoming the biggest cause of car break-ins raises the question: is there more the system manufacturers could be doing to help with the issue of security?** In the case of in-car audio equipment, the addition of some relatively simple software-based security features can render the device ineffective if stolen, thus deterring would-be thieves. With mobile phone manufacturers recognising the need for anti-theft security, it is surely only a matter of time before the SatNav suppliers do the same.

**In the meantime, follow this advice to help minimise your chances of becoming a victim of car crime:**

**The golden rule – NEVER leave anything valuables in your car. Remember most car crime is committed by opportunists who will break in to steal anything of value that may be on visible from outside the vehicle.**

**Remove all signs of SatNav equipment - this includes the marks left behind by the suction cup attaching the device to your windscreen. This acts as a cue for criminals to break in and search for the equipment.**



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