

Crime prevention advice for **horseboxes & trailers**



Horseboxes

Are popular targets for thieves, particularly older Bedford TK models that are usually stolen for their gearboxes.

- Fit a good quality alarm / immobiliser and, if possible, you include the gearbox on a separate alarm circuit.
- Consider fitting one of the Anti-Hijack devices on the market. These will totally disable the lorry once it has been stolen, forcing the thieves to abandon it, ensuring its safe return to you. Speak to a vehicle security specialist.

Trailers

are very steal-able. A determined thief will probably steal no matter what measures are taken. However, if you can slow them down enough, they may decide to look somewhere else.

- Lock the trailer inside a building. Remove the rear lamp lenses and bulbs. Many trailers are stolen at night. If the police see one being towed without lights (or showing white lights to the rear) it may result in a stopcheck!
- Remove the wheels and take the wheelnuts home.
- Paint your postcode on the roof in 12" letters or purchase a sticker of your postcode from: www.ruralsafetysigns.co.uk see example below:



- Paint the trailer with an unusual pattern or in non-standard colours. Make it stand out from the crowd!
- Fit a good quality wheelclamp.
- Fit a hitchlock

Crime prevention advice for **horseboxes & trailers**



- Buy a hooped barrier from www.barriersdirect.co.uk or fit security posts. These are designed to physically block the trailer in. Some are fitted with a towball, so that the trailer can be fixed to the post for added security.
- Photograph your vehicle from every angle paying particular attention to damage or any other distinguishing marks.
- Etch the chassis number and/or postcode on all windows and several hidden places.



Purchase of Second Hand Trailers

What could be worse than waking up to find your trailer has been stolen?

Answer: innocently buying a stolen trailer!

If your purchase is found to be stolen, the legal owner is entitled to have it returned to them. You could end up thousands of pounds out of pocket and without a trailer! Don't let this happen to you.

While there is a market for stolen trailers, there will be thieves attempting to steal them, even with the improved security devices now available.

Guidelines for buying a second-hand trailer

These guidelines are similar to those for buying a second-hand car. The sums involved can be similar so why not take the same precautions?

Crime prevention advice for **horseboxes & trailers**



- Second-hand trailers provide good value for money and buying from a recognised dealer provides some peace of mind. All their trailers should have been checked and you will have some recompense if the trailer does turn out to be stolen.
- Buying from a private owner can be cheaper but carries more risk. The golden rule is 'if the deal seems too good to be true – then it probably is!' The market value for trailers is well known and if someone is offering one at well below the normal price, ask yourself why.
- Always meet the seller at their home address. Don't meet halfway in lay-bys or car parks. If you do have to try to recover your money, you have got somewhere to start.
- The seller should know their way around the trailer, with all its features and small problems. Beware of someone 'selling it for a friend', who does not appear to have an interest in horses.
- Ask to see proof of ownership such as their original sales receipt, owner's manual or ask to see the Certificate of Ownership. Check to ensure all the details refer to that trailer. An honest seller will not be offended!
- The most important physical item to check is the manufacturer's unique registration plate, normally found on the chassis close to the hitch. It is highly unlikely that this will have fallen off during normal use of the trailer. If there is no plate, walk away. There will always be another trailer to look at. Most trailers with missing or damaged plates turn out to be stolen.