



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

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**POILEAS ALBA**

Motorcycle  
Security

Between September 2021 and September 2022 motorbike theft across Scotland increased by 86%.



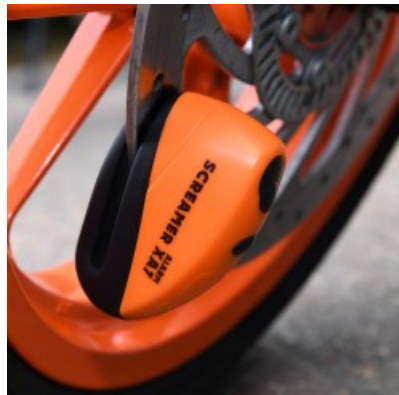
Many methods can be used in order to steal motorcycles, with the most common being cutting or snapping any locks used to secure the vehicle.

Online marketplaces such as Facebook and Gumtree appear to be one of the most common disposal routes for stolen motorcycles.

Stolen motorcycles can also be used to commit further criminality and are often abandoned afterwards.

Thieves will often look for security flaws in both newer and older vehicle with motorcycles being stolen through methods that can be difficult to counter such as being lifted into vans and driven away. One of the most popular theft locations remains outside of residential properties, usually on driveways, making motorcycles easily accessible to thieves.

Car parks and residential streets make it easy for thieves to load motorcycles into their vehicles. Thieves will target motorcycles left unattended by victims whilst they are away.



If your bike is stolen, never put yourself at risk. Call police immediately on 999 if you see it being stolen or if you discover it has gone report online or call 101.



The key to preventing motorbike theft is to make your bike less attractive and more difficult to steal than others. By combining multiple security measures and being vigilant, you can significantly reduce the risk of your motorbike being stolen.

### **Lock**

Use a disc lock to help secure the front brake disc or a grip lock to secure the brake and throttle controls. Disc locks are available with built in alarms that are triggered by movement. You could also use an appropriately rated D lock on the front wheel to stop it being wheeled away.

### **Chain**

Thieves often steal a bike by breaking the steering lock and wheeling it away. Use a chain lock through the back wheel (the front wheel can be removed). Secure your bike, with the lock taut to an immovable object such as a ground anchor or street furniture. This will stop thieves from cutting a lock trailing on the ground using an angle grinder. If this isn't possible, thread the chain through your bike frame and back wheel.

### **Tracker**

A tracker won't stop your bike being stolen, but if the worst does happen, it could mean you'll get it back much quicker.

Don't advertise that your motorcycle has a tracker, as while it could deter a casual thief, the more determined will remove a tracker as soon as they find it. The first thing many will do is remove the seat to look for a poorly-installed one so it's vital that it's well hidden.

A large proportion of thefts, particularly in city centres, involve a push-away that sees your motorcycle hidden somewhere outside while thieves wait to see if a tracker is installed; the last thing they want is to lead police back to their home.

### **Cover**

Thieves often 'shop' for particular bike models. Using a cover instantly makes it less attractive to them. A cover also provides another time consuming obstacle for the thief.

Unfortunately security measures can't guarantee your bike won't be stolen but, by using multiple security measures, you can make it harder and less attractive for thieves.

**For approved security products for your scooter, motorcycle or moped search the 'Accredited products' page on the Secured by Design website.**  
**[www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)**

Sales of motorcycles continue to increase thus increasing the appeal of these vehicles to criminals.



### **Remove the keys**

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. It only takes a few seconds for a thief so don't make it easy for them.

Never rely on just using your steering lock to secure your bike as thieves can break the steering lock and simply wheel the bike away.

Fobs for keyless bikes should be placed in a 'Faraday pouch' (Secure by Design accredited). Remember to include spare keys. These pouches if used correctly should block the signal to/from your keys.

### **Fitting an alarm can be a deterrent to thieves**

Consider fitting a Thatcham-rated 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

A quality Thatcham approved, professionally fitted alarm system will not only put off thieves, but could also reduce your insurance premiums.

### **Property mark the parts**

Marking as much of your bike as possible will make 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.

When at home the best place to keep your motorcycle, moped or scooter is in your garage or shed

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.

### **No shed or garage?**

Thieves prefer dark and secluded locations where they can work undetected. By choosing well-lit and busy parking spots you increase the chance of someone noticing any suspicious activity. Park it in an area near to your home where it's well overlooked with good lighting.

A Park Mark approved car park has a higher level of security than other car parks.

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