



# Caravan identification

A guide to identifying the age and make of caravans



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The details provided on this leaflet are intended only as an aid to the identification of caravans. The information is believed correct at the time of printing, but no guarantee can be given that it will be correct in all circumstances.

## How old? What make?

Identifying a caravan is important for law enforcement agencies and also for trade and private buyers. A caravan has no obvious 'date stamp' like a car, and some make it hard to identify even the make. Therefore it is important to check that a caravan in use or for sale is what it claims to be.

The problem was made easier in 1992 with the introduction of CRiS (Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme) using the International Standard 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number CRiS covers UK-built caravans made by National Caravan Council (NCC) members, which covers the vast majority, and uses window etching and a register system. CRiS is run by HPI Equifax in Salisbury, and includes a stolen list, which can be checked against the VIN.

Pre-1992 caravans used a mixture of systems, including an NCC standard system, which some but not all makers used from 1987 to 1991. Before 1987 manufacturers all used different systems (where they used any at all) and in many cases only the chassis maker's serial number will help identify the age of the caravan.

As with cars, supporting evidence is usually helpful such as a bill of sale, quoting the number (if any) at time of sale. Service records should also be checked for consistency.

If there is evidence of removal of numbers, treat as stolen but not necessarily by the current owner, as some unwise but law abiding people will buy for cash in dubious circumstances. Sometimes the original thief may not have removed all the numbers so check for other evidence on the chassis and inside where many owners will write a number in cupboards.

The Caravan and Motorhome Club runs a Theftcheck register open to members and non-members. Prospective buyers and police can check if a caravan has been notified to the Club as stolen.

Most users of caravans are grateful to have identification details examined at routine checks. Advice can be given at that time on other measures owners can take to reduce the likelihood of theft. Contact the Club for further details:

[www.camc.com](http://www.camc.com)

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Members of the Caravan and Motorhome Club who make an insurance claim on The Club's policy for theft will have the details listed on Theftcheck on 01342 336885.

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## Identifying marks and numbers

NCC identification marks (1987 to 1991)		CRiS VIN numbering (From 1992)		
Located nearside A-frame/chassis.		Located nearside A-frame/chassis member.		
E.g. 87 AB 007878 (Year) (Make) (Serial no.)		E.g. SG7 S001CPN AB N 1234 (Make) (Make) (Year)		
Make	Code	Code	Make	Code
ABI	AB	SG7	ABI	AB
ADRIA	AD	VY1	ADRIA	AD
AVONDALE	AV	IST	AIRSTREAM	AU
BAILEY	BY	SGA	AVONDALE	AV
BESSACARR	BE	SA9	AUTO SLEEPERS	SA9
BUCCANEER	BU	SGB	BAILEY	BY
CI CARAVANS	CU	SG1	BESSACARR	BE
CARLIGHT	CL	SG2	BUCCANEER	BU
CASTLETON	CT	SGU	CI CARAVANS	CU
CHATEAU	CE	SGC	CARLIGHT	CL
COACHMAN	CM	SG3	CASTLETON	CT
COMPASS	CP	SG5	COMPASS	CP
COSALT	CS	SG6	COSALT	CS
COTSWOLD	CW	SGE	ELDDIS	EL
ELDDIS	EL	VFM	EMM-BEE CARAVANS	MB
EMM-BEE CARAVANS	MB	SGF	FLEETWOOD	FL
FLEETWOOD	GR	SGG	GOBUR	GR
GOBUR	GR	WHB	HOBBY	HY
HOBBY	HY	WO9	INTERNATIONAL CON'S (LMC)	LM
INTERNATIONAL CON'S (LMC)	LM	SGL	LUNAR	LU
LUNAR	LU	ZB5	RIMOR	RIQ
MARDON	MA	SGS	SILVERLINE	SL
RIMOR	ZB5	SA9	STEALTH	DU
SILVERLINE	SL	VGZ	STERCKEMAN	CKQ
SWIFT	SW	SGD	SWIFT	SW
TABBERT (UK) LTD	TB	WTA	TABBERT(UK) LTD	TB
TROPHY	TR	SGT	TROPHY	TR
VANMASTER	SGW	SGW	VANMASTER	VM
VANROYCE	VR	SGV	VANROYCE	VR
VISCOUNT	VC			

## Year codes

Year	Code	Year	Code	Year	Code
1992	N	2001	1	2010	A
1993	P	2002	2	2011	B
1994	R	2003	3	2012	C
1995	S	2004	4	2013	D
1996	T	2005	5	2014	E
1997	V	2006	6	2015	F
1998	W	2007	7	2016	G
1999	X	2008	8	2017	H
2000	Y	2009	9	2018	J

## Uniform marking

Pre-1987 no uniform marking existed – however, the following may apply.

Make	Exception
ABI	Prior to 1982 see B&B chassis numbering. 1982 and later see AL-KO
ADRIA	Ring importer
ALBION ROSE	Ceased 1984. Last two digits give model year to 1982. From September 1982 last digit gives model year (eg 3 = 1983).
A-LINE	Ceased 1981. Third and fourth digits give year. In 1973 only, third digit gives model year.
ASTRAL	Ceased 1980. See B&B chassis plate numbering.
AVONDALE	Later models, second and third digits give year. See also 1970-78(PEAK), 1979-82 (B&B), from 1982 (AL-KO).
BAILEY	Began with N at end of serial number in 1975 and proceeded alphabetically. 1984 models have A at end and follow car registration system.
BESSACARR	Until 1978, first three or four numerals denote month and model year. Prior to June 1975 see B&B, 1975-78 Peak, 1979 Ambergate, from 1980 AL-KO.
BUCCANEER	First and second digits give model year.
CI	Initial letter followed by two digits corresponding to year.
CHATEAU	Third and fourth digits give year.
CARLIGHT	Deduct last digit from second digit to obtain year.
COMPASS	Second and third digits give year.
COTSWOLD	Up to 1984 see B&B. 1985 on SYSPAL.
DEANLINE	Fourth and fifth digits give year (ignore letters).
ELDDIS	First letter referred to year up to 1977, beginning with B in 1966, missing out I. 1978-83 contact manufacturer. From 1984 in line with car registration, 1984 being A.
FLEETWOOD	First two digits give year.
LUNAR	Prior to 1980 see Peak. 1980-81 Ambergate,

Make	Exception
LYNTON	From 1975 uses car registration letter to indicate year.
MARDON	1974-76 on Peak chassis. 1976-83 see B&B. 1984 onwards Aluminium. (Ambergate or SYSPAL).
SAFARI	Pre-1983 Makers Plate gives Bowbridge, Stroud address, after shows Convamore Road, Grimsby. See B&B chassis numbering
SWIFT	Often fourth and fifth digits give year from 1978. Letter prefix also gives year P=1979 Q=1980. From 1983 first two digits give year.
THOMSON	From 1966, first two digits give year. GD-Glendale G-Glen GN-Glennevis GG-Glenelg GA-Glenalmond GM-Glenmore GE-Gleneagle GB-Glenberbie Ceased 1982
TROPHY	First two digits give year until 1986, after ring manufacturer.
VISCOUNT	First two digits indicate model year.

## Chassis manufacturing marking

Chassis manufacturer	Marking
B&B	From 1972 6 digits used: 1973 from 119375 1974 from 159426 1975 from 181861 1976 from 205112 1977 from 234984 1978 from 264381 1979 from 290200 1980 from 315025 1981 from 333506 1982 from 346633 1983 from 354621 From 1984 most un-numbered, but first issued 361079
Ambergate	From January 1979 first two digits give model year.
Peak	From 1970 first two digits give month (01=July) next two give year. Ceased 1980.
TW	Last two digits give year.