

Storing your caravan or motor caravan



Your easy guide towards motor caravan and caravan storage

- Where to store your caravan when not touring
- What to look for in a storage facility
- Measures to take to increase security



Motor Caravan and Caravan Storage

If you own a motor caravan or caravan there'll be loads of questions about storage that you'd like answered. Well, we at The Caravan Club want to help you, so we've compiled some of the basics such as where you can store it and what to look for in a storage facility.

Now you're the proud owner of a motor caravan or caravan, storage, when you're not enjoying touring, is all-important.

And, if you've no experience of motor caravans or caravans, things like "What type of storage should I choose?" and "What security measures should I put in place?" are the types of questions you'll need answered.

In this leaflet we hope to give you a good idea about the options available and set you on the right track to the most convenient, most secure storage facility for you.

You can also find more detailed help on The Caravan Club website www.caravanclub.co.uk.



C O N T E N T S

Where should I keep it?

- Discover if you should keep your caravan or motor caravan at home, and what alternative storage facilities are around – on [page 3](#).

When is storage available?

- Seasonal facilities and reserved pitches – when you can have your leisure vehicle stored – [page 4](#).

What should I look for?

- Security at a storage facility – what you should be looking for to ensure your caravan or motor caravan is securely protected when not in use. Also on [page 4](#).

I'm keeping it at home. What then?

- How to deter thieves – some do's and don'ts when storing at home – see [pages 4 and 5](#).

Outwitting thieves

- Ways to keep your vehicle safe – registration and identification systems that confirm the owner of a caravan or motor caravan – see [page 5](#).

How do I ensure it's not stolen?

- Check its history – all about CRiS vehicle registration and what it can tell you – see [page 6](#).

Hi-tech theft deterrent

- Silent Tracer – how to make sure you get your stolen caravan or motor caravan back if the worst happens – see [page 6](#).



Where should I keep it?



Keeping a caravan or motor caravan at home

If you have a garage or a drive you may want to consider keeping your touring vehicle at home. Keeping your vehicle in the garage is obviously the preferable option because of the greater security and shelter. Height and length are deciding factors with this option, especially if you have a motor caravan. Coachbuilt conversions are upwards of 2.7m (9'0") in height, fixed roofs are around 2m (6'5") and micros range from 1.8m to 2m (5'9" to 6'3"). Caravans may generally be smaller in height, but both motor caravans and caravans can be quite long, over 7m (23'0") for the larger models! So you'll need to know all your measurements to find out if garage storage is an option.



Keeping your touring vehicle on your drive may seem like the perfect option because there are no obvious height problems, but it's worth checking your local bylaws because there may be restrictions. It is also more difficult to secure your vehicle if it is parked on a driveway.

Keeping your caravan or motor caravan on a storage site

Maybe you have a favourite site that you go to again and again, so you might want to consider storing your caravan or motor caravan on site or nearby.

If you leave your motor caravan on site and drive to it in your own car you won't have to hire one while you're on holiday or 'de-camp' every time you go on an excursion.



If you'd rather have your touring vehicle closer to home so you can tour anywhere straight from your door, then search for a site nearby. You shouldn't have to look very far, there are lots of storage sites all over the country. The Caravan Club has almost 3000 storage pitches within compounds on Club Sites, providing security and convenience at a reasonable cost and under the care of a Club Warden.

You'll find more information on The Caravan Club website or you can search for a storage site at www.cassoa.co.uk or www.caravansitefinder.co.uk.

What if my favourite site is abroad?

No problem, just store your vehicle near a port and as soon as you're off the ferry you're ready to go! There are also plenty of overseas caravan sites that offer storage. The Caravan Club website has lots of information including a PDF you can download which contains of contact details for French caravan sites that offer storage.

Go to caravanclub.co.uk/practical for **courses and DVDs**

Can I leave my vehicle there all year?

Some sites do offer all year round storage but, if you plan to go touring for a large part of the year, you can reserve a pitch, just for you, throughout a specified period. Choose from a full season of around seven months or part season for just spring or autumn, leaving you free to tour during the summer. Most seasonal pitches are on grass and usually have electric hook-ups.



What about security on storage pitches?

There are a number of key security measures that a storage pitch should have in place for the protection of your vehicle. Below is a checklist of the most important points to bear in mind:

1. Perimeter protection

It's obvious really but this is the first line of defence, and can take several forms such as: fencing, electronic beam, earth mounds, and water filled ditches.

2. Access control

Check the access points to the storage pitch; are they secured using a card control, multiple locks, or a key pad? Card control is probably the preferred and most secure option. Also check how many access points there are. Having a really secure entrance is all well and good but if there are other less secure exit and entry points it becomes almost redundant. In an ideal world the storage pitch would have just the one secure access point, where you enter and exit.

3. Closed circuit television

CCTV is wonderfully effective, especially with a good video recording system. If the cameras are visible they

act as a great deterrent. If the CCTV is being manned 24 hours a day then potential thieves can be stopped in their tracks, if the video recording is good then even in the worst case scenario, a touring vehicle being stolen, they will be able to get good identification of the perpetrators and successfully stop them getting away with your caravan or motor caravan.

4. Security lighting

Another very good deterrent, but it is worth noting that poorly placed lighting can allow your would-be thieves useful areas of shadow to disappear into.

5. Landscaping

It's worth looking carefully at the landscape around your storage pitch. Low growing shrubs can act as a useful buffer zone, but tall trees near to perimeter fencing can be used as a natural ladder over it. Tall shrubs can also conceal perpetrators just like the shadow areas above.

6. Fire risks

Your gas bottles should be stored in a locked compound because they pose a fire risk. It is worth checking your storage pitch has the correct fire extinguisher for the protected risk – The Caravan Club's leaflet 'Fire alert' will give you more detailed information.

7. Legal Obligations

Your storage pitch should be covered for public liability and occupier's liability etc. but it is worth double checking and making sure your own personal caravan or motor caravan insurance covers your vehicle while it's in storage. The Caravan Club website has more information on the subject but if you are really concerned talk to a legal professional.

CaSSOA (Caravan Storage Site Owners' Association) is a dedicated storage organisation whose member sites are assessed using the above criteria. Points are awarded taking into account the security protection in place, the position and location of the site, etc. Prime sites are awarded gold status, followed by silver and bronze. Visit www.cassoa.co.uk for more information.

Security at home

Storing your caravan or motor caravan at home may be convenient and cost effective, but many vehicles are stolen from domestic locations, it's worth applying as many of the above precautions to domestic storage as possible.

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Bear in mind the following when you store your vehicle at home:

1. Is your vehicle easy and convenient for you to access? If it is, it's also very easy for a thief to get to it too.
2. Neighbourhood Watch is a wonderful scheme and can be a very helpful deterrent. However, many residential areas are sparsely populated during the day, when most people are at work, so you might not want to rely on it as a security measure.
3. A security post is a very good idea, and will block removal quite effectively.
4. There are plenty of alarm systems on the market that include immobilisation circuits, ultrasonic interior sensors, perimeter protection to cab doors, self powered systems and ones with both visual and audible warnings. Shop around for the best one to suit your needs and your pocket.
5. An often overlooked aspect of security is that if your caravan or motor caravan is parked on your driveway in full view, it's absence when you're off touring is an advertisement to thieves that your house is empty.

Is there anything I can do if my vehicle is stolen?

There are two registration systems in place – Theftcheck, for caravan owners and MINDER for motor caravan owners.

Theftcheck

Theftcheck is one of the largest computerised caravan registers in the UK, and registration is free for members of The Caravan Club. Here's how it works. The unique identifying number of your caravan is logged against your membership record. For newer caravans this number will normally be etched on the windows. If you have an older caravan, pre-1992, The Club recommends that you etch the caravan windows with this number as well as marking it internally. If your caravan is insured through The Caravan Club's 5Cs caravan insurance scheme, logging and updating are automatic. Those not insured with 5Cs should make sure the record is kept up-to-date. Should your outfit ever be stolen, this vital information can help the police to trace you as the legal owner (don't forget to inform us if you change your caravan).



Since its launch in 1988, Theftcheck has been a huge success and has assisted in the recovery of many caravans.

You can also use Theftcheck when buying a used caravan. With a single phone call you can check if the van you're proposing to buy is listed as stolen on the Theftcheck register.

If you'd like Theftcheck to run a free check, just call 01342 336 885. Before calling, just make sure you have details of the make, model, year and unique identifying number of the caravan, as well as the vendor's details. To register for Theftcheck just call 01342 318 813.

MINDER

MINDER has been created by HPI and the UK Motorhome Industry. MINDER is a vehicle security and asset registration system which helps protect against theft and fraud.

All Motor caravans sold since 2001 have a unique Motorhome Identification Number (MIN), a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and a Vehicle Registration Mark (VRM). These features help to offer you a greater level of security and also enable future buyers to identify the vehicle and check its history with confidence.

As well as these features, each motor caravan has a 'hidden' electronic tag, a visible etching of the MIN number and a permanent warning sticker. This helps to ensure more accurate identification.

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Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme



The Caravan Club has teamed up with HPI, best known for its vehicle HPI Check.

HPI operates CRiS (Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme) on behalf of The National Caravan Council.

CRiS provides all those facilities associated with the car HPI Check, but for caravans.



Take the risk out of buying a used caravan

If you are buying a pre-owned caravan, then make sure you carry out a CRiS Check prior to concluding the deal.

A CRiS Check will not only confirm the caravan's true identity, but will reveal if there's a hire purchase agreement with overdue finance, if it's been reported stolen or is an insurance write-off.

In addition CRiS will be able to confirm if the 'seller' is currently recorded with CRiS as the current keeper. Take advantage of our exclusive member offer and get a CRiS Check for just £9.95.

For further information on CRiS and to take advantage of the offer visit www.caravanclub.co.uk/hpi or to order phone now on 0845 300 8917.

Deter caravan thieves with Silent Tracer

Theft deterrent is as important as recovery and the very latest high-tech solution to secure your caravan's identity is Silent Tracer. Using modern DNA techniques coupled with your caravan's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), Silent Tracer is a unique DIY marking solution that will deter thieves.

For the competitive price of £69.95, you get not only CRiS Microdots in a unique DNA solution, but also an electronic tag and other CRiS security marking items. What makes this different from other marking systems is the use of DNA technology directly linked to your caravan's CRiS VIN.



For further information on Silent Tracer and to take advantage of this exclusive offer visit www.caravanclub.co.uk/hpi or to order phone now on 0845 300 8917.



Abbey Wood Caravan Club Site