

Safeguarding your vehicle

You've heard of the faraday pouch but vehicle tracking systems are also an effective security measure

A tracker is a small device which is attached to a vehicle and transmits data about its location and speed to a GPS satellite. The satellite then sends on this information to the tracking company, a computer or app. This information relays at regular intervals, which can be set anywhere between every five seconds to every five minutes.

Trackers can be retro-fitted professionally to most vehicles, but many cars, such as those offered by Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), now come with them factory-fitted as standard. This is the InControl Remote Secure system.

Upon delivery, it is important for you to complete all the necessary steps to ensure your tracking device is registered to you and that your correct contact details are provided. If the subscription has been paid, this will ensure the system is activated and will operate in the event of a theft. If your tracker is not working at the time of a theft, your insurer may not be able to pay your claim.

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Here, we share some important points to consider about your vehicle tracker and how to avoid common pitfalls. Firstly, does your vehicle already have a tracking device? You may need to ask your dealer whether there is one fitted and if so, is it a GPS system or an Automatic Driver Recognition (ADR) system? Insurers might require a specific type of system. If the required system is not already fitted and subscribed to, ask a certified professional installer to fit one.

Secondly, check that you have the correct tracker. If your vehicle does not have a factory fitted tracker or it is not the required type, a system can be fitted by a profes-

sional. Next, remember that a GPS system only provides basic functionality. It will not alert you if the car is stolen and the car movements will only be tracked once you notice the theft and report it to the police. This could result in a delay.

However, an automatic driver recognition (ADR) is a feature on premium tracking products that identifies approved drivers. These identifiers are usually small tags the driver keeps on their person. If your vehicle is moved without a driver identification tag present, an alert will be sent to you directly.

An ADR system will alert you by text immediately in the event of any unauthorised movement of the vehicle so that you will know it has been stolen and take action. Check with your manufacturer. Remember, do not leave your driver identification tag in the vehicle when unattended or the system will not alert a theft.

Next, ask yourself, do you need an ADR system? This provides an additional layer of security or if your insurer requires it (check with your broker). ADR takes tracking technology one step further by identifying an approved driver. It requires a driver identification tag to be present before the car can be used.

If the car is driven without the tag in the car, the tracker will alert. With newer models, the driver identification card can be built into the vehicle key. Again, check with your manufacturer. Remember: the dealership may not send you a reminder about renewing your subscription.

Have you thought about a factory-fitted tracker? For example, Jaguar Land Rover now offer a factory InControl Secure tracker from new. The required specification must be chosen at the point of order.

When ordering the vehicle, ensure that you select the required tracker option and then check whether the subscription is included. Choose from InControl Remote Secure (GPS only) or Control Remote Secure Pro

(GPS and ADR). At the pre-delivery inspection, the dealership should connect you and the vehicle to the JLR portal and InControl system.

You must then ensure you complete the next steps or the system will not be operational. When you buy second hand or pre-registered market JLR, you need to reach out to JLR or the dealer to check if the InControl Secure tracker is fitted.

Also, we suggest picking up the subscription for the duration of the manufacturer warranty and completing the process with the download of the app and linking the whole system to you. If in doubt, ask and double check! If your tracker is not working at the time of a theft, your insurer may not be able to pay your claim.

We recommend that you watch out for an email explaining what steps you must complete. Once received, click on the link within the email, download an app and set a security password. Then check all your personal and contact details are correct.

You should then receive confirmation from JLR that the process is completed and the system is active and operational. If you are ever in doubt that the system is live and working, check back with JLR.

Some points to remember:

- Ensure when ordering a tracking device, it has the required capability (either GPS only or ADR).
- Ensure your subscription is paid and active at all times
- Set reminders for renewal.
- Ensure if you have separate ADR tags, they are never left in the car when unattended.
- Ensure you have completed the final stages of the set up and activation.
- Ensure you receive confirmation from the manufacturer that every stage has been completed so you know the tracking function is in full working order.

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