



## REST EASY

As the saying goes, locks are only there to deter honest criminals and the same could be said for the various hitch locks currently available for caravan, camper, boat and other trailers.

While a chain, a padlock and a large tree or telegraph pole have been the time-honoured deterrents, the advent of lithium battery-powered portable angle grinders is now all that's between a well-prepared thief and your pride and joy.

However, what a hitch lock will do is buy

you better odds, as it will cost a calculating criminal time to crack your defences and deter an amateur, who will be more inclined to move on to an easier target.

If visibility is a key deterrent, then it's hard to go past the latest bright orange Saracen Ultra hitch lock, distributed in Australia by caravan and accessory manufacturer Purple Line. Designed to secure standard Australian 50mm ball hitches, the Saracen Ultra is made from high-strength composite metals and has an anti-pick seven-pin cylinder lock with a tubular, anti-copy key.

Importantly, given that most vans and

trailers spend more time stored than travelling, it is designed to deter theft whether hitched to the tow vehicle or left unattended. This is an especially important consideration for owners of offroad caravans and campers, as these tend to be left in remote areas for hours – or even days – at a time while their occupants explore local areas on foot or in their 4WD.

It's also ideal for boat trailers, which may be left hitched at the ramp for hours on end and are often stored unhitched in driveways for weeks or months, while the same applies to car trailers.

The Saracen Ultra is solid, relatively heavy at 4kg, but simple to use. It's also compact, so it will take up little space in your boot. It slips easily over any mainstream 50mm ball hitch, like those made by Al-Ko, and is secured in place by a lockable pin that passes through the part of the hitch provided for a padlock.

However, by also encasing the tow ball, it makes removing the entire ball and hitch difficult for a would-be thief, while the barrel lock is much harder to cut with a hacksaw or grinder than a padlock.

For the times your van or trailer is unhitched, the Saracen Ultra is supplied with a separate hollow steel tube that slips over the towball locating nut and therefore makes it impossible to attach it to a towbar.

Of course (now thinking like a thief), the Achilles Heel of the system when

hitched is your towbar tongue itself, which on most vehicles can easily be removed from your tow car by simply pulling its locating pin. So for ultimate protection when hitched, it would be ideal to fit a separate locking hitch pin.

Purple Line anti-theft products are warranted for 12 months and are available at leading caravan accessory outlets nationally.

– Michael Browning

### Saracen Ultra Hitch Lock

RRP: \$149

Where: Caravan accessory outlets, nation-wide

More info: [www.purpleline.com.au](http://www.purpleline.com.au)

Rating: ★★★★★