

Burnetts guide to Laptop Security



Laptop Computers are by their nature highly portable and expensive and are therefore very susceptible to theft and damage.

Burnetts have produced this guide to assist you in looking after your laptops and explaining the more important insurance conditions relating to these items, so if you are unlucky enough to have one stolen or damaged everything will have been done to minimise the risk and your insurance will cover the cost.

Security

- (1) When travelling in a car, put the laptop out of site and lock all doors, especially in town, stop the opportunist "snatch and run" thief.
- (2) Never leave it in a car overnight. If you have to leave it in an unattended car at any time put it in the boot and ensure all doors are locked and any alarm set. Overnight take it inside with you.
Your policy does not cover theft from an unattended vehicle unless it is locked and laptop is in the boot and it is not covered at all if left in a vehicle overnight
- (3) Do not advertise you are carrying a laptop, try to keep it disguised by using a normal briefcase, bag or backpack. Snatching of equipment or Mugging is not fortunately common, be aware of the risk, but do not resist.
- (4) Do not leave the laptop in restaurants, classrooms, or indeed any other venue which cannot be locked.
The "disappearance" of a laptop, without any actual theft would not be covered.
- (5) Do not leave on a desk overnight or even at lunchtime they do have a habit of going "walkabout". Lock it in a drawer or cupboard, or secure it with one of the proprietary security devices available, but make sure the keys are removed.
A laptop which is stolen without any apparent break into or out of the room or building is not insured.
- (6) When travelling on public transport, keep it with you at all times, do not leave it in luggage racks or even on the floor alongside you. Ensure that it goes as cabin baggage if travelling by air.
It is a condition of your insurance that the laptop must be kept with you at all times whilst travelling on public transport (cabin baggage by air).

Damage

Laptops are very easily damaged, here a few tips to prevent costly damage and consequent loss of use of the equipment whilst it's being repaired.

- (1) When carrying the laptop, ensure it is properly packed.
- (2) Ensure it is secure in any vehicle, as a flying laptop is dangerous and can cause serious damage to it or you!
- (3) Never force anything into a laptop case, this can easily bend and break the screen.
- (4) Do not try to squeeze a laptop into a case, again this can cause screen damage.
- (5) Do not leave pens etc on the keyboard and close the lid, again this can cause screen damage.
- (6) Do not leave the laptop on desks with leads dangling, these can easily get caught and the machine pulled onto the floor.
- (7) Do not pick it up by the open lid, this can cause the hinges to fracture.
- (8) Never take a laptop apart, this is a specialist job. One last tip, do remember to take regular backups, often overlooked on a laptop, the hardware may be expensive but often the data is invaluable!

Disclaimer

It should be noted that the advice and views expressed herein are intended as a guide only and not necessarily represent the policy requirements of the Underwriters and should be taken as a guide only.

You should always refer to your policy wording for full cover details.