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## Our promise

Expert advice when you need it

Which? aims to help you choose the best goods and services – and avoid the worst. We're entirely independent – we take no ads, no freebies and everything we test is paid for at full price. Since

1957 we've informed, influenced and campaigned on behalf of all consumers in the UK.



### Best Buys

These are products that achieve high total test scores.

### Don't Buys

These are products that have performed extremely poorly in at least one of our key tests or that have achieved very low total test scores.



### Exceptional Value

Our coveted award is given on those rare occasions to products that are of both superb quality and outstandingly priced.



**MEMBERS' HELPLINE** Call 01992 822 800/0845 307 4000 Email [which@which.co.uk](mailto:which@which.co.uk)

‘Which?’ is an easy read...but it also does another thing – it campaigns, it gets things changed, it keeps people on their toes’ **PAGE 84**



**58** Hanging a weight from a bar tests whether a high chair can topple backwards

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## Comment

# Act on car crime

While a recent United Nations survey named the UK as one of the worst countries in Europe for crime, it is indisputable that the number of offences involving cars has dropped dramatically, as our report on p22 indicates. Technology has played a major part in this – for example, the compulsory fitting of immobilisers on all new cars since 1998 has led to a significant fall in the number of cars stolen either permanently or by joyriders.

But there is much more that consumers themselves can do, especially as the nature of car crime changes. Our snapshot survey of one railway station car park shows that too many drivers are lax about car security. Our researcher accompanied a former car thief, who said that about half the vehicles on show would be tempting to those on the lookout for easy pickings. This figure, he says, is typical of most cars on the street or in other public areas.

But our checklist shows that a small amount of thought and action can pay valuable dividends in protecting our cars. The last ten years has shown that car crime can be fought. The next ten years could have even more impact – if we all take more care. As the Prime Minister might have said: be tough on crime, be tough on the opportunities for crime.

## Isas – a taxpayer's best friend

Which? wants consumers to make the most of that scarcest of all resources – money. It would thus be irresponsible of us were we not to remind you of Isas and their associated tax-free benefits and how they will be changing next year.

Isas are here for good, according to the Chancellor, which means that they would seem to be safe havens for reasonable returns – if you work at them. Banks and building societies are happy to let the rates fall in older schemes – so be prepared to move your money to make the most of your tax-free returns. It's easy to do and well worth the effort.

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UK ISSN 0043-4841

Printing Charterhouse Print Management

## THIS ISSUE IN NUMBERS

**7,297**

The number of grams of chocolate we demolished to find the best of our 12 Easter eggs. Indulge yourself while reading our report on p26.

**20,000**

The number of times we switched our ten light bulbs on and off to see how long they last before the filament breaks. To find out more, turn to p62.

**540,000**

The number of miles we covered in our wear tests on 28 tyres. Our tyre testing is the most thorough carried out by any magazine – see p70.