

# Saddle Security Marking



Leather saddles are embossed with metal stamps on the panel under the saddle flap. The mark is usually your postcode, though any other alpha / numerical mark can be made – the choice is yours. The important thing is the saddle is marked so it is identifiable from another brown or black saddle.



## Registering your saddle

After you have had your saddle stamped and if you can provide an e-mail address your saddle is registered on a free, secure central database [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com).

Immobilise can be used by members of the public to register their valued possessions, and exclusive to Immobilise all account holders registered items and ownership details are viewable on the Police national property database the NMPR ([www.thenmpr.com](http://www.thenmpr.com)). This online checking service is used by all UK Police forces to trace owners of lost and stolen property. In addition Immobilise is checked daily by a huge range of recovery agencies, secondhand dealers and lost property offices. These checks form a very effective tool in helping to reduce crime and repatriate recovered personal property to its rightful owners.

### Proof of identification

In the event of the worst happening, the police must be provided with the most comprehensive and clear details of your loss, whether it is your horse, equipment or vehicle. In addition to security marking, the keeping of written and photographic records of your horses and equipment may prove vital in their recovery, and costs nothing to complete.

If you have to provide details or prove ownership, the fact that you can identify your property may need to be backed up with other proof. The police must be very confident the horse and equipment which has been stolen is the one in question, before they can take action! Please be aware that an equine passport is NOT PROOF of ownership.

### Photographs

Take clear, sharp colour photographs for a good visual record of an animal. Take the photographs from the left and right side, head on and tail on. Any particular peculiar points such as scar or whorls should show up clearly in the photographs. Facial markings and patterns are particularly distinguishing and some animals may require individual photographing of these features. Photos of equipment are also recommended.

### Compile an inventory

Do not forget to make a comprehensive inventory of tack and equipment. Include relevant descriptions (colour, size, etc.) serial numbers and details of security marking or post coding.

## Microchipping

An alternative to stamping is to have a saddle microchipped. There are a number of companies that offer this service, either as a DIY kit or an agent implanting this for you. Whilst Suffolk Police cannot recommend any particular company, some offering microchipping are listed below.

### Agent installed chips

Microtack - [www.farmkey.co.uk](http://www.farmkey.co.uk)

Chips4tack - [www.chips4tack.com](http://www.chips4tack.com)

### DIY Chips

SaddleTrac - [www.tackdirect.co.uk](http://www.tackdirect.co.uk)

Saddle-ID - [www.happy-shop.co.uk](http://www.happy-shop.co.uk)

Datatag - <http://datatag.co.uk/equine.php>

Suffolk Horse Watch offers the Datatag microchip at a discounted price of £25. After you have installed the microchip you can register your saddle on a free, secure central database [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) We have a scanner to check for this type of chip, which incidentally is also used on Ifor Williams horse trailers.

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The most important thing to bear in mind if you are considering microchipping is the type of flocking within your saddle. If you have airbags, such as Flair or Cair then it would be best to consult a saddler to ascertain the best place to insert the chip without compromising the bags.

### Selling a saddle which is security marked

If you wish to sell on a saddle which is security marked it is suggested you provide the new owner with a receipt which shows your details and the type of marking (embossing details or microchip number). You will need to update any database it is registered on e.g [immobilise](http://www.immobilise.com) to show you are no longer the owner and advise the new owner to register it under their own details.