SECURITY

In brief:

- 'Best Manufacturer' British Insurance Car Security Awards 2004 and 2005.
- · Electronic immobiliser fitted as standard.
- Alarm and deadlock system operated from remote control key fob.
- Approach and Home Safe Lighting system.
- Laminated side windows optional.
- Dark tinted side and rear windows available.

Volvo is committed to protecting the car, its occupants and their possessions. It was voted 'Best Manufacturer' in the first 'British Insurance Car Security Awards' announced in July 2004 and won the same title again in 2005.

The Volvo XC90 is fitted as standard with a sophisticated alarm and immobiliser system that can be switched on and off using the remote controller on the key fob. The combination of deadlocks and optional laminated side windows can make the Volvo XC90 a difficult car to break in to, while dark tinted rear windows are available to help conceal the contents of the interior.

The remote control also operates the Approach lighting system, which illuminates the car and the surrounding area as the driver approaches. Likewise, a tweak of the headlight stalk activates the Home Safe system, switching on the headlamps for 30 seconds after the occupants have left the vehicle.

In Full:

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Volvo's passion for safety also extends to issues of personal security. The Volvo XC90 is fitted as standard with a wide range of features designed to protect occupants from burglary, theft and assault.

Volvo was voted overall 'Best Manufacturer' in the first 'British Insurance Car Security Awards' announced in July 2004, and won it again in the second awards in 2005. The BISCA aim is to raise consumer awareness of vehicle security and recognise manufacturers' efforts to make more secure cars. To be eligible for the awards, all cars had to pass strict selection criteria in line with the New Vehicle Security Ratings scheme (NVSR) developed by the Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre (Thatcham).

An electronic immobiliser makes it impossible to start the car without the right key, while the outer lock cylinder rotates, making it difficult to break in to. If the thief does manage to get in, via a window, for example, the deadlock system makes it impossible to open a door from the inside. The availability of laminated side windows can also make it harder for thieves to gain access to an XC90.

The deadlock system is activated by the remote control key fob, allowing the driver to open the car as they approach. This system can also be used to access the tailgate independently of the doors, which is a useful deterrent to opportunist thieves.

The same remote control system also switches on the alarm system, which is fitted as standard to the Volvo XC90. The alarm is triggered if anyone attempts to open the doors, the bonnet or the tailgate. It also reacts to movement inside the car or if a window is broken. As an option, this system can be upgraded to include a level sensor that activates the alarm if the car is jacked up in any way.

An important contribution to personal security is provided by the Approach and Home Safe lighting system. By pressing a button on the remote controller as they approach the car, the driver is able to turn on the inside lights, the side marker lights and the lights in the rear-view mirrors. On leaving the car, a tweak of the headlight stalk activates the dipped beam headlamps for 30 seconds, lighting a path to the door. It's a simple system that offers considerable peace of mind.

XC90 owners may also choose tougher laminated side windows to protect against break-in, while the option of dark tinted side and rear windows are a popular way of making it harder to see any personal contents inside the car – but also gives added personal security as it makes it much less obvious whether the driver is alone or not.