



The Lead Sheet Association



New initiatives beat metal theft down

Whilst the theft of metals, including lead, can attract rather sensationalist headlines, it is worth pausing to consider some interesting facts behind the headlines.

For example, did you realise that occurrences of metal theft are tumbling, and are expected to fall much further as a result of various measures that are being put in place? Or that lead is one of the most cost-effective and long-lasting roofing products available?

Metal theft occurrences falling sharply

Metal theft is being taken very seriously by the relevant authorities, and there is clear, unambiguous evidence that metal theft is plummeting. A number of initiatives have been put in place within the last twelve months with the aim of reducing the theft of metals, and the results so far are impressive. For example, since the implementation of Operation Tornado, a multi-agency initiative requiring anyone selling scrap metal to provide photographic proof of identity, metal thefts have fallen by around 50% on average - in some areas, the reduction has been almost 75%.



With regards to metal thefts specifically from church buildings, some equally impressive figures have recently been released by specialist church and heritage insurer Ecclesiastical:

- Theft of metal from church roofs in 2012 was at its lowest level since 2006
- Insurance claims from Anglican churches in 2012 fell by almost 65% compared with 2011
- Cost of claims in 2012 fell by 60% compared with 2011

LEAD

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Reduction of Metal Theft Across United Kingdom during 2012

Nationwide - 43.7% reduction

- Scotland - 64% reduction
- North East - 53% reduction
- North West - 58% reduction
- Yorkshire & Humber - 16% reduction
- East Midlands - 29% reduction
- West Midlands - 48% reduction
- Wales - 26% reduction
- South West - 50% reduction
- South East - 49% reduction
- London - 29% reduction
- Eastern - 60% reduction

New initiatives beat metal theft down

New legislation to prevent cash transactions for scrap metal

The Scrap Metal Dealers Bill 2013, which passed its final stage in the House of Lords recently, will require scrap metal dealers to be licensed by local authorities and will outlaw all cash payments for scrap metal. By making it almost impossible to make profit from stolen lead as a result of this Bill, there will be much less incentive for metal theft.

Effective security devices readily available

Simple security measures such as CCTV, perimeter protection, motion detection and property marking solutions are all readily available and offer efficient and cost-effective measures to help reduce the risk of metal theft.

Longer life

It is also worth remembering that lead is a proven product which looks great and compares very favourably with alternative roofing materials. Lead lasts three times longer than most man-made products, requires virtually no on-going maintenance, will prove almost 100% more cost effective over 65 years, and 25 year guarantees on labour and material are available for lead installations. Installed correctly by a qualified tradesman, the risk of storm damage to lead valleys and chimney stack leadwork is extremely small when compared with alternative products, and the LSA would be pleased to present guidance on ensuring that leadwork is fitted correctly.

The Lead Sheet Association is available to demonstrate to you why there really should be no alternative to using lead. We would be pleased to present to you more details about the measures being put in place to successfully combat metal theft and those simple and cost-effective measures that will further reduce the risk of metal theft.



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