

PROTECTING YOUR HOME

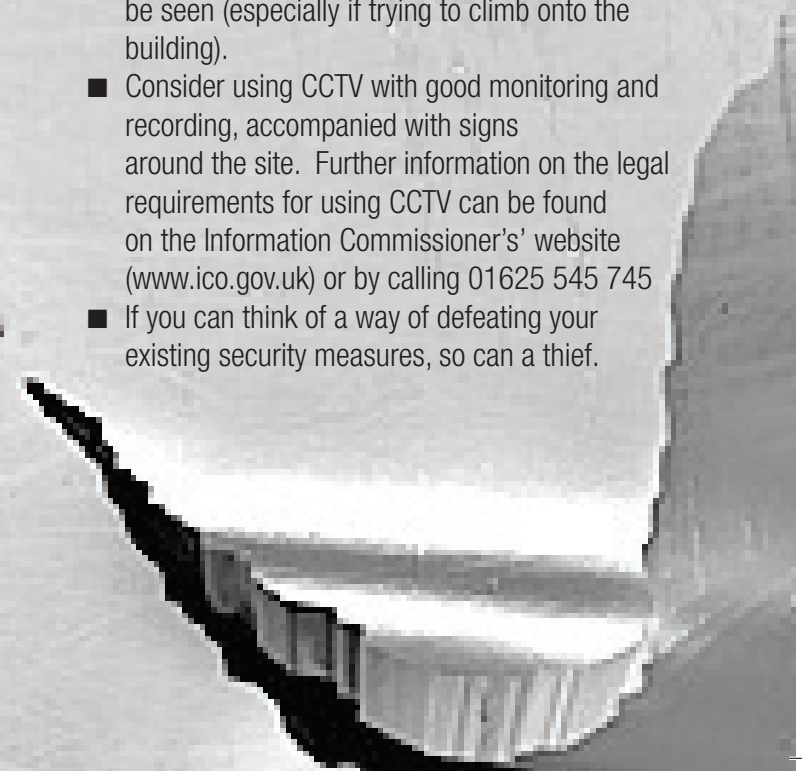
- Be a good neighbour, and encourage your neighbours to watch out for each other too
- Put up posters asking neighbours to call the police if they see anything suspicious, such as people 'working' evenings or weekends in buildings which are normally empty.
- Write a letter and post it through local doors, highlighting the crimes you are worried about (eg theft of lead from your roof). The letter should include your personal contact details, plus contact details for the police and Crimestoppers
- Note the appearance and registration of any unfamiliar vehicles in your area. This information could be helpful to police if an incident takes place.
- Consider joining a Neighbourhood/Business/Farm Watch scheme. Ask your local police station for details of schemes in your area.

PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS

- Ask staff to be on the lookout: if they see 'work' being undertaken on the premises which seems fishy, encourage them to check with other staff about whether it's been authorised. If it hasn't, they should call the police.
- Put up signs and posters encouraging staff and public to be watchful
- Shopping trolleys, door furniture, plaques and any other easily transported metal objects are particularly tempting to thieves.
- Use coin release trolleys. If possible, lock the trolleys inside the shop when closed.
- Consider repositioning name plaques where they can't easily be unscrewed and stolen.
- Use coach bolts or non-return screws on door furniture.

PROTECTING YOUR BUILDING

- Review the security of perimeter fencing and gates on a regular basis, checking for holes or weak spots that might let people in. Fix them immediately.
- Where possible, keep gates locked so vehicles can't drive into your property or premises
- Consider planting prickly shrubs around the perimeter fence.
- Maximise the amount of your site you can see. Trim shrubs and hedges to around one metre high, with any tree canopy no lower than two metres.
- Security lighting is very important. Not only does it put off intruders and light up vulnerable areas, but it means people on the property can be seen (especially if trying to climb onto the building).
- Consider using CCTV with good monitoring and recording, accompanied with signs around the site. Further information on the legal requirements for using CCTV can be found on the Information Commissioner's' website (www.ico.gov.uk) or by calling 01625 545 745
- If you can think of a way of defeating your existing security measures, so can a thief.



WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT METAL THEFT?

Metal theft affects

- YOUR telecommunications
- YOUR transport
- YOUR home, public services or worship
- YOUR safety

All round the world, the price of metal has rocketed. This means metal theft has risen to an all time high

Thieves will steal

- Rail, power and communications cables
- Railings and safety barriers
- Lead roofing
- Gates and fencing
- Road signs
- Manhole covers
- ...even lengths of electricity pylon

Keep your eyes open.

If you see something suspicious, for example

- Unmarked vans removing cabling
- 'Workmen' collecting metal but not wearing reflective vests

Contact the police immediately on 0131 311 3131

Alternatively, you can pass on information anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers, by telephoning 0800 555 111, or by online form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Reduce your chances of being targeted by taking the simple precautions recommended in this leaflet.

DON'T MAKE IT EASY

- If external work can't be done without scaffolding, the scaffolding should be lit up and alarmed.
- All ladders should be removed at the end of each working day and stored in a safe place, ideally chained to a wall within a locked outbuilding.
- Remove anything that could be used to get onto your roof (such as water butts, wheelie bins or garden furniture), then secure them so they can't be moved.
- Remove anything that could be used to move stolen metal, such as wheelie bins, shopping trolleys or wheelbarrows
- Consider using anti-climb measures such as anti-climb paint on drainpipes and roof guttering above 2.4 metres from the ground. This must, by law, be accompanied by clear signage.
- Use forensic security marking products to mark metal goods and link thieves to a crime scene. This should be applied out of direct sunlight, ideally on the underside of items before they are secured. Signs warning forensic marking has been used can help keep thieves away, and should be prominently displayed. Details of forensic marking products can be found on the Secured by Design website.
- If metal theft does take place, try and replace what's been stolen with alternative non-metal materials.

Free crime prevention advice is available from:

Lothian and Borders Police

Community Safety Department
t: 0131 311 3131
w: lbp.police.uk

Secured by Design

UK police website advising on home security
w: securedbydesign.co.uk

