

Oil Theft

The police are offering the following advice to prevent heating oil theft:

- Check your heating oil **regularly** and often.
- There are many devices on the market for measuring how much oil is in your tank, buy one and **use it**.
- What security features does your tank have **lockable fuel cap, sensor lighting coverage**, etc.
- Is your heating oil tank easily accessible to vehicular traffic – next to a road, car park etc. If it is you are more **high risk**.
- Be a good neighbour and **report** anything suspicious around a neighbour's home. Persons taking hoses through to oil tank etc.
- Make sure that your boiler is securely locked up with a **good quality padlock**.
- Make it hard for an intruder to gain access to the rear of your home. Install locks to the area of the tank.
- Use **plants with thorns or spikes** around your oil tank.
- Install an automatic sensor PIR operated **security light** or, ideally, install 'dusk to dawn' lighting.
- Consider a shed **audible alarm**.
- Mark your boiler with your **post code and house number** using an engraving tool.

CALL THE
POLICE

101

IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999

Ask for your
Local Crime Prevention Officer



Advice on
Home Safety



Domestic Burglary

- Before you leave, go into each room in the house and make sure all the windows are tightly shut and locked. If no window lock is fitted you may want to consider buying one. A burglar may be less likely to enter your home if a window needs to be smashed.
- Check all doors leading into your home are secure and locked.
- If you have a garage, put your car inside if you are not taking it on holiday.
- Make sure the car doors and boot are locked and the windows are shut.
- Put car keys somewhere they cannot be seen or easily found by a burglar.
- Recent improvements in car security mean that the easiest way for a thief to steal a car is to break into your house and steal the keys for it.
- Ensure your main garage door is shut and locked.
- If there are any bicycles or toys sitting around the outside of the house, put them away.
- If your bins are due to be emptied while you are away, ask a neighbour if they can put them out of sight.
- Make your house look occupied by putting lights and/or a radio on timer switches.
- Set a burglar alarm if one is fitted to your home. Consider fitting an alarm if not.

- If you have outbuildings that store valuable possessions or have doors that lead to your house, this checklist can be used to make them more secure also.

Inform local police the relevant dates your property will be vacant.

Neighbours can look out for each other. Chances are if a criminal targets one house in a particular street he may try another a few doors up. You know who lives on your street so if you see someone acting suspiciously note down any important details such as a description or car registration and contact police. We will follow up on your call and there is every possibility your information could prevent a crime.

Find out if there is a neighbourhood watch scheme in your area.

Help break the cycle of Bike Thefts

It only takes a few seconds to steal a bicycle.

- Make full use of bicycle locks and secure bikes properly to a permanent fixture every time it is left unattended.
- Keep details of the make, model and serial numbers of your bike.
- Indelibly mark your bike with your postcode and house number to enable police to identify the owner should your bike ever be stolen and subsequently recovered.

Garden Security

Garden crime is an unfortunate reality. Crimes of this nature can be prevented by effective garden security. Follow our advice and make it harder for the thief.

- Protect vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes.
- Well positioned external lighting keeps intruders away.
- Keep your shed in good condition. Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door. Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed. Fit meshes or grilles to the windows. Invest in an alarm.
- Make sure that large items such as bicycles are chained together. It is much more difficult for a thief to carry away a lot of large heavy items.
- Ladders should be locked to a secure fixture in the shed or garage so they cannot be used to access upstairs windows.
- Valuables should be marked with your postcode.
- Check that your household insurance policy covers garden or shed equipment and find out if any minimum security standards apply.

If you need advice on how to make your home safer, call the police and ask to speak to your local Crime Prevention Officer.