

Keeping People Safe



# Metal and Cable Theft

**TAKE ACTION TODAY!**

Advice for communities and  
owners of vacant properties



# Metal & Cable Theft



The recent surge in the value of copper and lead has increased thefts of these and other metals.

This has resulted in the targeting of metal, including lead (from roof-tops), cable and copper tanks or pipes from unoccupied houses.

Vacant commercial premises and outlets specializing in the sale of copper, lead and similar products are also being targeted.

Thieves, who will also steal metal from places of worship and schools, have no concern for results. This can include flooding, risk of electric shock or loss of vital emergency phone services.

This leaflet has been produced for local communities and owners of all properties, particularly vacant houses.

## General checklist when leaving a property vacant or unoccupied.

- ✓ **Locks** - fit strong locks (which should comply with the latest BS standards) to external doors and windows. Always remember to lock all doors and windows.
- ✓ **Strong doors** - make sure your doors and frames are strong, in good condition and ideally comply with the latest BS standards.
- ✓ **Keys** - don't leave keys in locks in front and back doors. Keep keys accessible but out of sight and in a safe place.
- ✓ **Alarm** - install a burglar alarm and remember to use it.
- ✓ **Timer switch** - when your premises are vacant for considerable amounts of time try and create the impression that someone is in. Use a timer switch on a lamp or radio.
- ✓ **Install outdoor lighting** - low energy security lights that come on at dusk and switch off at dawn work best.

## Perimeter

- ✓ **Install fencing** and gates around your premises.
- ✓ **Checking fences and hedges** bordering rural properties to identify weak-spots that could provide unnoticed access to criminals or vehicles, and secure where necessary.
- ✓ **Consider restricting access** to your driveway to prevent unwelcome vehicles entering.
- ✓ **Consider installing perimeter alarms**, where practical.

## Checklist to help stop metal and cable theft from your property

- ✓ **Remove or delay fitting metal** such as copper tanks and copper pipes if a house is going to be empty.
- ✓ **Mark metal** with tamper-proof stickers, UV spray or grease. Use your post code and house number if possible.
- ✓ **Use signs** on vacant properties warning that metal has been marked or removed.
- ✓ **Consider using anti-climb paint**, however you may have to display signage.
- ✓ **Artificial lead** (which is lower in resale value) is a good replacement in the event of a theft.
- ✓ **In some cases permanent or temporary CCTV** and warning signs could help.

## **Metal and cable theft puts EVERYONE in danger!**

**Metal and cable thefts cause flooding**, risk of electric shock to the public, loss of emergency phone services and more.

**Thieves will target and damage** our schools, churches and community buildings.

- **Do you live near empty houses, churches or schools?**

If the answer is yes, you can help!

- ✓ What is happening around the buildings?
- ✓ Who is there?
- ✓ Should they be there?
- ✓ Is it an unusual time for workmen or other people to be there?
- ✓ Are they from a legitimate company?
- ✓ What are they doing?



# DO NOT DELAY

CALL THE  
POLICE

101

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

## YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

---

As an alternative to contacting the police directly, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity and is not part of the police. Contacting Crimestoppers allows anyone with details of criminal activity to pass it on anonymously. Calls are not recorded, there is no caller ID facility and callers will not be asked for their names. Calling Crimestoppers can help make your community safer.

Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111 or through the Crimestoppers website : [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Crimestoppers is not an emergency service and if you see a crime taking place you must call 999 to report it immediately. If you are a victim of crime you should report this to your local police.



Call anonymously with information about crime