

Keeping People Safe



Stop Building Site Theft!

Thieves regularly target building sites and newly built homes



Site Security

Thieves regularly target building sites and newly built homes in your area. Please assist in helping prevent this type of crime by following the advice given here.

Warning Signs

- Post “Warning: No Trespassing” signs around the perimeter of your worksite.
- Post signs warning that security measures have been taken (without giving details).

Fencing

- Use a suitable fence, allowing thieves to be visible from the outside and increasing the chances of unusual activity being noticed.
- Keep bushes and weeds trimmed back from the fence to aid visibility.
- Fences should be of sufficient height and set in concrete.
- Consider using barbed wire or razor wire at the top of fences for added security. (Warning signs may need to be displayed).
- Conduct routine fence inspections and promptly repair any openings.
- Do not allow random items to be piled up on either side of a fence, it may create a ‘climbable’ condition, compromising security.

Other Worksite Barriers

- Barriers should be used when fences are not feasible or in addition to fencing to enhance security.
- Barriers can include low walls, posts, dirt berms or ditches that prevent a unit from being driven or towed off the worksite.
- Walls and berms should be no higher than three feet as that is the maximum height a police officer can see over when seated in a patrol car.
- Trenches or ditches should be three or four feet deep and sloped so that most vehicles cannot be driven across.

Gates

- Gates should be of heavy construction, with hinge pins spot welded to prevent easy removal.
- Locking hardware should consist of a case hardened chain and a high security close-shackle padlock permanently attached to the fence, or shielded / blind locking devices should be used.
- If possible, have only one entrance/exit.
- Limit access to keys.

Lighting

- In order to avoid a distracting glare for patrolling officers or casual observers, lights should be placed near the perimeter of the property (but far enough from the perimeter to prevent a thief from disabling the lighting) and directed towards the worksite.

- Lights should be well maintained with the changing of bulbs made a priority.
- In small compounds, low-cost motion sensors can be linked to lighting, but should cover the entire compound and all approaches. This may also be valuable in specific areas of a larger worksite.

Site Office

- Keep a record of the serial numbers on all tools and equipment.
- Computers should be secured to the side of a desk or the floor using strips of metal, bolts or screws or using locking devices created for this purpose.
- Use 'point of entry' or motion sensor alarms to provide added security for your office.
- As a deterrent, post a notice on the door or outside wall to alert thieves that some or all of the above measures have been implemented.

Keys

- Have a written company policy that all keys be removed from equipment when not in use or in storage.
- Make a note of who has access to, or is assigned, keys to equipment or the locks at your worksite.
- Consider a 'Key Sign-Out Log' to record the whereabouts and possession of all keys.
- Keep all keys secured in a safe or lockable alarmed area after hours or when not being used.

Locks

- If padlocks are used, they should be high security, close-shackle type.
- Ensure that key-in cylinder locks are protected by a guard to prevent removal.
- Case-hardened chains used with padlocks should be thick enough to resist torching, saws or bolt cutters.
- Consider cable or wire rope instead of chain as it is harder to cut and requires special tools.

Equipment and Materials

- Take steps to protect metal items which are a target for thieves, contact your local Crime Prevention Officer for more information.
- Tools should be removed from site routinely at the end of the day or stored in a securely locked and alarmed container.
- Any tools/machinery left on site should be visibly marked and also covertly marked.
- Larger items of machinery/plant should be fitted with immobilisers and tracking devices.
- Materials left on site should be kept to a minimum and stored in a securely locked and alarmed container.
- Houses nearing completion should have an alarm system installed and the system set while awaiting occupation. Alarms should conform to the latest BS Standards.

What Else Can You Do

Security guard companies should be used to provide static or intermittent patrolling of sites under construction at vulnerable periods.

Report suspicious persons or vehicles visiting the site immediately - call the police!

CALL THE POLICE

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

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Awareness

Some construction site crime is committed by people working in the industry. This means that responsibility rests with site supervisors, if they take a strong line on site security by making company policy clear to everyone, they can help reduce the problem.

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**

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