

Keeping People Safe



# Keep Your Property Safe and Secure

**Advice for owners of vacant  
and unoccupied buildings**

# Vacant premises targeted...

**The recent surge in the value of scrap copper, lead and other metals has made the theft of these and similar materials by criminals a most attractive proposition.**

This has resulted in the targeting of lead from roofs on churches, sports club buildings, unoccupied dwellings and of course new buildings under construction. Vacant commercial premises and premises specializing in the sale of copper, lead and similar products are also being targeted.

This leaflet has been produced to help raise awareness of the problem and reduce crime.

## **Did you know?**

Properties without security measures in place are ten times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures, such as quality door locks.



# Checklist of “to do” items when leaving a property vacant or unoccupied.

## Top tips to secure your property

**Locks** - fit strong locks (that comply with British standards) to external doors and windows. Always remember to lock all doors and windows.

**Strong doors** - make sure your doors and frames are strong and in good condition

**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** – consider installing a burglar alarm and remember to use it.



**Mark & register your property** - marking your property with your postcode, house number or house name makes your property traceable and deters criminals. Consider photographing your valuable property.

**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 a radio.

**Install outdoor lighting** - such as low energy security lights that come on at dusk and go out at dawn.

**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** - at your entrance to prevent unwelcome vehicles entering.

**Consider installing perimeter alarms** - where practical.

## Mark it, register it, keep it

Marking your property is an effective method of deterring thieves from stealing it. It makes it more difficult for thieves to sell on and easier for it to be returned to you if recovered by the police.

Using an ultra violet pen, your property should be marked with your postcode and house number. Stickers illustrating that your property has been marked should also be displayed in a prominent place which could deter any thieves. Police have access to UV lights which show up postcodes etc when shone on your property will show your UV mark of your postcode.



Consideration should be made to mark all copper tanks and pipes especially if your property is vacant for a longer than normal time. This would be beneficial to police or scrap merchants who can then verify if the copper has been appropriated honestly.

A simple example of UV marking is:-

**BT701HX—No 1** — this would refer to 1 Quarry Lane Dungannon, Co Tyrone.



Close it  
Lock it  
Check it!

For FREE security advice  
contact your local police  
and ask to speak to your  
**Crime Prevention Officer**

**CALL THE  
POLICE**

**101**

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL **999**