



A Guide to
Crime Prevention
through
Property Marking.



Keeping People Safe



There are many methods of property marking available

Some of these are obvious, some are invisible or hidden. They range from simple ultra violet pens to etching and engraving, as well as many varied commercial products and schemes.

Property that is clearly and obviously marked is less attractive to a thief as it is more difficult to sell. Stolen property, recovered by Police, is more easily returned to its rightful owner if it is clearly marked with identifiable information.

Few things are more fundamentally wrong to a police officer, than to have to return stolen property to a known thief because the true owner of the property cannot be traced.

Postcode system

However you decide to mark your property the post code system of property marking is particularly recommended.

It is possible to deliver a letter using only a house number and the correct postcode, therefore, by using the same principles it is possible to locate the owner of property, if that property is marked using the owner's house number and postcode. Adding the owner's initials makes it even more traceable to the individual. Eg. 'PC, 280, BT15 5BB'.

UV marking pens are popular for 'property marking schemes'. People like the idea of invisibly marking their property. However, it is worth considering that if a potential thief finds property which has been marked visibly by etching, engraving or scratching

and those marks made more obvious having been overwritten with permanent black ink, then the thief is less inclined to steal the marked item in the first place. It is less valuable to the thief to sell as the markings make it less attractive to a buyer. It is also more readily identifiable and may lead to the thief being caught and charged for theft.

Take all reasonable steps to mark your property to reduce the likelihood of it being stolen but in the undesirable circumstance that your property is stolen or lost, if it is marked then the chances of it being identified and returned to you are greatly increased.

Permanently mark all your property and also keep an inventory of each item, including description, value, make, model, serial number etc. and the nature of any security marking. This can also be useful if you need to make an insurance claim following a theft or damage.

Ultraviolet security markings



Ultraviolet light assists in the identification of stolen property and in the detection of fraudulent currency, credit cards and documentation. It is used by all law enforcement agencies, and those who handle such items on a regular basis.

Property marking is recognised as a major factor in discouraging and detecting crime. The inclusion of watermarks on official documents and credit cards

has been in use for a considerable length of time. Police and commercial organisations are now able to take full advantage of this system to prevent and detect offences.

There are a number of products which can be used to visibly or invisibly mark property. Here are some products which fluoresce under Ultraviolet light.

Forensic marking

A colourless liquid solution can be applied to your valuable items, including jewelry, ornaments, electrical items and even vehicles. This is forensic marking, the liquid solution gives your property a chemical 'code', which is unique to your items and you. It cannot be seen by the naked eye and is very difficult to remove. The solution glows under ultraviolet light, allowing police to detect it.

Criminals are aware of forensic marking, they know that it can be used as evidence and forensically link them to a crime, such as theft, robbery and burglary.



Forensic marking providers

Red Web www.redwebsecurity.com

SelectaDNA www.selectadna.co.uk

Smartwater www.smartwater.tv

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not specifically endorse any one of these products. In our view, they are all equally effective.

The above are all accredited by:

Secured by Design www.securedbydesign.com

which is the UK police flagship initiative supporting the principles of 'designing out crime' by using effective crime prevention and security standards for a range of applications. Each of these manufacturer's

has a range of products which include alarm activated spray to mark intruders or robbers with unique individual batches of invisible ink, registered to individual addresses, and laser etched microdots to aid instant identification of the registered owner of property.



Ultraviolet marking

Permanent ultraviolet (UV) marker pens are available from most large stationers. The mark is invisible until it is viewed under a UV lamp. UV marking is effective because the criminal cannot see the marking and will, therefore, not take steps to remove it. UV marking does not affect any resale value, so it is suitable for electrical goods and other items that you may wish to sell.

The pen is used to put details of the the owner's postcode and house number somewhere on the surface of the item.



Documents and other UV markings.



Northern Ireland and Bank of England banknotes, Euro banknotes and credit cards all carry UV marking, as do many official documents, including passports, plastic driving licences, MOT certificates and vehicle registration documents.



For more information and advice please call the Police and ask for the your local Crime Prevention Officer.

**CALL THE
POLICE**

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IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL **999**

www.psni.police.uk