

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

Metal Theft



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Metal theft is one of the fastest rising crimes in the UK. Influenced by commodity prices the problem spans across the country and affects homes, communities, industry, telecoms, transport and commerce, and is costing millions.

Thieves target a range of metal items, including roof lead, copper piping, manhole covers, building and construction equipment and even commemorative plaques. Homes, churches, business premises and public buildings are all potential targets that could suffer from metal theft.

Both Norfolk and Suffolk Police are committed to tackling this growing crime, working with partners such as, British Transport Police, HMRC and the environmental agency. The idea behind the initiative is to work in partnership with scrap dealers in order to deter and detect metal thefts by making it easier to trace those selling it.

Protect your home

- Keeping gates locked and installing strong fences - you can also grow prickly hedges around property boundaries which should to be kept well pruned to maximise visibility.

For Further Crime Prevention Advice:-

For Norfolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Architectural Liaison Officer (ALO)

For Suffolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team

- Being aware of any objects that could be used to access your roof like water butts, wheelie bins and garden furniture - if possible these should be stored away from the building.
- Restricting vehicle access where possible.
- Putting outside lighting on dusk till dawn sensors.
- Storing ladders and tools in a secure place.
- Being a good neighbour and encouraging others in your neighbourhood to be vigilant.
- Checking your roof regularly for any missing lead – early detection can allow for roof repairs before it rains and there is additional internal damage.

Businesses and public buildings

- Regularly reviewing the perimeter fencing and gates security - checking for holes and weak spots which could allow people access.
- Improving visibility by cutting back vegetation, moving bins or improving the lighting.
- Ensuring any equipment or materials stored near the building does not allow easy access to the roof. Anti-climb paint or physical barriers can be used to prevent access, but all anti-climb devices must be clearly signposted to comply with the Occupiers Liability Act 1984.
- Not leaving any scrap materials lying around which could tempt thieves.
- Using a forensic solution to mark any lead - warning signs saying forensic marking has been used should be displayed. Products can be found at <http://www.securedbydesign.com> where a theft has happened, you should consider using lead replacement products - check with your local planning officer to see if this is allowed on your building.

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- Installing CCTV with adequate monitoring and recording. An Operational Requirement should also be completed. This document is unique to each installation and used by the contractor or person setting up the system for the design, performance, specification and functionality of the equipment used. Visible warning signs should be displayed as a deterrent to potential offenders.
- Encouraging staff to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour or vehicles to the police.
- Encouraging people in the local community to be vigilant around buildings like places of worship and schools, reporting any suspicious activity, particularly the unexpected arrival of builders.

You may also consider the following

- Coating lead flashing and drain pipes in anti-climb paint, which is non-drying and marks clothes and skin to help identify offenders. It should only be applied above 2.4 m from the ground and must be clearly signposted to comply with the Occupiers Liability Act 1984
- Coating lead in silver paint, which devalues the metal and makes it less likely to be stolen
- Using coloured lead, which will allow flashing to blend in with the rest of the building, making it more difficult to identify
- Using a forensic solution, such as SmartWater, SelectaDNA, RedWeb or Crimestoppers products to security mark your property.

If you see any suspicious activity, report it to police on 101. If a crime is in progress or you require emergency assistance, dial 999 immediately.

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