

METAL THEFT



FIRST PRINCIPLE

norfolk.police.uk/firstprinciple
suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple

Top Tips

If you are a farmer, a business owner, look after a church or have a vehicle with a catalytic converter, check out our more detailed crime prevention information – links are provided in this document or look on:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/> and look in the 1st Principle A-Z of Crime Prevention.

- Try to keep metal away from access points and ensure gates and fences are secure
- Try not to stockpile large quantities of metal
- Keep scrap metal in a secure location
- Create layers of security
- Protect your catalytic converter
- Report suspicious behaviour

PREVENT CRIME

PROTECT COMMUNITIES



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You



SUFFOLK
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Metal theft is one of the fastest rising crimes in the UK. Influenced by commodity prices. The problem 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.

Home Owners Security

- Keep gates locked and install strong fences. You can also grow prickly hedges around property boundaries which should be kept well pruned to maximise visibility.
- Be 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.
- Restrict vehicle access where possible.
- Install dusk to dawn outside lighting.
- Store ladders and tools in a secure place.
- Be a good neighbour and encourage others in your neighbourhood to be vigilant.
- Check your roof regularly for any missing lead. Early detection can allow for roof repairs before it rains and there is additional internal damage.
- Take a look at our Home Security Self-assessment
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/homesecuritychecklist1.pdf>

Business and Public Building Security

- Regularly review perimeter fencing and gates - checking for holes and weak spots which could allow people access.
- Improve visibility by cutting back vegetation, moving bins or improving the lighting.
- Ensure 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.

- Don't leave scrap materials lying around which could tempt thieves.
- Use 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>
- Install CCTV with adequate monitoring and recording. Visible warning signs should be displayed as a deterrent to potential offenders. <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/commercialcctv1.pdf>
- Encourage staff to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour or vehicles to the police.
- Encourage 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.
- Coat lead in silver paint, which devalues the metal and makes it less likely to be stolen.
- Use coloured lead, which will allow flashing to blend in with the rest of the building, making it more difficult to identify.

Catalytic Converter Security

- Park your vehicle in a locked and secure garage/compound at all times.

- The use of alarms, lighting and CCTV can deter thieves. If this isn't possible park in a well-lit public area.
- Park in such a way as to make access to the catalytic converter difficult, or parallel with another vehicle if you own one.
- Report suspicious activity by looking out for people 'working' under vehicles as they may not be the owners or lease holders, even if they have fluorescent jackets on.
- Mark your catalytic converter by etching your vehicle registration onto the metal shell, or by using a Secured by Design (SBD) approved forensic marking solution which is heat-resistant. This makes it easier for police to trace the converter back to your vehicle should it ever be stolen, and links offenders to a crime.
- Consider fitting additional security on your vehicle(s) by installing an SBD approved converter security product, such as a clamp.
- For more information take a look at our Catalytic Converter security document.
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/catalyticconvertertheft1.pdf>

Suspicious Behaviour

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.

Take a look at our advice on how to report suspicious behaviour

https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/reporting_suspicious_behaviour.pdf

Further Information

Business Security

For more information about Business Security, take a look at our Business Security self-assessment

https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/sm_allbusinesssecurityselfassessment1.pdf

Church Security

For more information about Church security, take a look at Church Security self-assessment.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/churchsecurity1.pdf>

Farm Security

For more information about Farm security, take a look at our Farm security self-assessment.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/farmsecurity1.pdf>

Rural Areas

If you live in a rural area, take a look at our rural security document.

https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/rural_crime_0.pdf

First Principle: Related links

Check out all of our Crime Prevention information using the following links or by using the QR code to take you to the First Principle Pages Alternatively go to our website at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/> and look in the 1st Principle A-Z of Crime Prevention.

Allotment Security
Anti-Social Behaviour
ATM Security
Beach Hut Security
Boat Security
Building Site Security
Business Security
Caravan Security
Caravan Storage
Card Security
Catalytic Converters
Church Security
Cold Callers
Commercial CCTV
Counterfeit Banknotes
County Lines Advice for Landlords
Cyber Crime
Cycle Security
Dangerous Dogs
Dog Fouling
Dog Theft
Domestic CCTV
Domestic Violence
Farm Security
Fraud Prevention
Grooming
Hate Crime

Heating Oil
Home Improvements
Home Security
Home Security for Tenants
Horses and Stables
Keyless Vehicles
Key Safe Security
Lock Snapping
Mopeds and Scooters
Motorcycle Security
Neighbour Disputes
Occupiers Liability
Personal Security
Power Tool Security
Products Brochure
Rural Crime
Security Alarms
Sheds and Garages
Social Media
Social Media for Parents
Suspicious Behaviour
Shoplifting
Taxi Driver Safety
Vehicle Security
Windows and Doors



Other Links you might find helpful

Ask the Police
Secured by Design
Sold Secure

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

Victim Care
0300 303 3705