

A Site More Secure

A Best Practice Guide to

Construction Site Security



Every year...

- ☹️ **Construction equipment worth £600m is stolen in the UK**
- ☹️ **Thieves steal 24,000 pieces of mobile plant, equipment and tools**
- ☹️ **Site theft costs companies at least £66.25million (excluding loss of business and insurance premium increases)**
- ☹️ **Nine out of ten stolen items are never recovered**

Best practice – Best results

This best practice guide for the construction industry is designed to raise awareness of basic crime prevention measures and help companies to improve their profits by reducing building site crime.

Criminal activity affects business in many ways. Apart from the obvious cost, time and inconvenience of replacing stolen equipment, theft hits budgets, bonuses and your bottom line.

Construction site security measures should be approved at the highest level in your business. You must be sure that all senior personnel understand the implications of poor site security and that you have a clear, concise policy that is communicated to all staff.

The first step in protecting your profit margins is a call to your Police Crime Prevention Officer who has unique local knowledge and can advise on every aspect of site security.

Make sure you...

- 🔒 control and monitor all movement of employees, vehicles and equipment
- 🔒 park private vehicles off-site
- 🔒 store high-risk items securely - all equipment should be signed in and out of store
- 🔒 keep an up to date record of all plant and equipment - hold it off-site
- 🔒 photograph all unusual and valuable plant and equipment
- 🔒 reward staff for practical security ideas

Make sure your staff are...

- 🔒 accountable for all equipment they use or hire
- 🔒 advised to report all theft to Police immediately
- 🔒 clear about your crime management policy
- 🔒 briefed regularly on site security procedures
- 🔒 encouraged to report suspicious incidents

All information reported to police is treated in the strictest confidence



The first, and last, line of defence

Make sure...

- 🔒 boundary fences are made of mesh - increasing site visibility
- 🔒 a security corridor is created inside the perimeter fence so you can:
 - 🔒 check the condition of the fence regularly
 - 🔒 prevent on-site property being used as leverage for climbing
- 🔒 site entrances and exits are clearly defined - the fewer the better
- 🔒 gates are fitted with good quality locks
- 🔒 entrances and exits of unmanned sites are blocked by large non-wheeled plant to prevent unauthorised access

Appointing security guards is a sound investment

Light up the site

Make sure...

- 🔒 security lighting is installed
- 🔒 lights are inaccessible, except by ladder
- 🔒 vandal resistant coverings are fitted
- 🔒 lighting does not dazzle
- 🔒 temporary buildings and plant storage areas are spotlighted

Generators and/or flood lamps can be used where there is no mains current

Keep thieves in the picture

Make sure...

- 🔒 reliable CCTV is installed
- 🔒 mains electricity is secure
- 🔒 heating and insulation are adequate

Police Crime Prevention Officers can offer advice on installing CCTV

Take notice of notices

Make sure...

- 🔒 site signs are visible - and display plenty of them
- 🔒 entrance and exit points are clearly signed
- 🔒 visitors are directed to Reception or the site office
- 🔒 notices are clear and concise

All theft will be reported to police

Take care of your buildings

Make sure...

- 🔒 reception offices are close to the main gate.
- 🔒 buildings have a limited number of keys
- 🔒 all key-holders and key-users are recorded
- 🔒 doors are fitted with good quality locks/padlocks
- 🔒 buildings are located where:
 - 🔒 windows and doors can be seen from neighbouring roads or houses
 - 🔒 street lighting adds to security
- 🔒 battery-powered alarm systems are used in isolated buildings

Consider target-hardening the interior of temporary cabins

Install a lockable metal box or cage, fixed to the floor, for storage



Lock-up valuable tools

Make sure plant and equipment are

- 🔒 registered on the National Plant and Equipment Register (Tel 01225 464599)
www.ter-uk.com
- 🔒 identity-numbered and recorded
- 🔒 tagged with a distinctive company identification mark
- 🔒 obviously security-marked and logged
- 🔒 fitted with security plates with company details
- 🔒 secured using heavy-duty chains and high quality padlocks
- 🔒 stored in inaccessible places (the upper floor of an unfinished building, for example)

Security plates should have a 24-hour contact number to speed police response

Make sure with specialist advice

Keep in touch with your local Crime Prevention Officer. He can advise you on all aspects of site security and on what criminals are targeting today

Prevent crime protect the bottom line

Ten key prevention points...

- 🔒 **Control and monitor all movement of employees, vehicles and equipment**

- 🔒 **Brief staff regularly on security issues**

- 🔒 **Where appropriate install security fencing**

- 🔒 **Where appropriate invest in CCTV**

- 🔒 **Install security lighting**

- 🔒 **Ensure visible site signage**

- 🔒 **Ensure site offices/buildings are secure**

- 🔒 **Security mark and record valuable plant and equipment**

- 🔒 **Lock up valuable plant and equipment**

- 🔒 **Liaise regularly with your Crime Prevention Officer**

This leaflet has been published in partnership with Tayside Police, Perth and Kinross Council, Scottish Business Crime Centre – the voice of Scottish Business on issues of crime and Norwich Union – Britain’s leading insurer.

It is part of a *Safe and Secure Site* initiative that has been launched in Perth and Kinross to combat construction site crime and follows calls from the industry for increased protection and information.

Safe and Secure looks at ways companies can reduce the burden of construction site crime and advises on practical, low cost, ways of addressing on-site security.

Copies of this leaflet and further information can be obtained from the Scottish Business Crime Centre at:

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