

PROTECT YOUR OIL TANK

Find out how you can prevent thieves from stealing your fuel



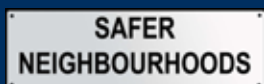
A rise in the price of fuel at the petrol pump inevitably leads to an increase in the cost of heating oil. Combined with the economic downturn this can result in fuel tanks on domestic properties, farms and goods yards being targeted by thieves.

As some fuel tanks have the capacity to store thousands of pounds worth of fuel it is worth taking some precautionary measures to protect it.

See overleaf for crime prevention tips and guidance on making it harder for thieves to gain access to your fuel.

To report an incident of oil theft to the police call **0845 456 4567**.

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HOW TO PREVENT FUEL THEFT

Control switches

Control switches that control the flow of oil should be turned off and the electricity supply isolated when the tank is not in use.

Padlocks

A thief will usually come equipped with a limited range of tools to attack your tank so it's worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to thieves. Due to their design, close shackle padlocks have very little of the metal hoop (shackle) exposed and bolt croppers cannot get a good grip.

Oil level gauges

Check your oil levels regularly. This will alert you quickly to any problems you may have had. It will also assist the police investigation if you can narrow the crime times down. Always check when you have had a delivery so you have a starting point. Many tanks can be fitted with a gauge to monitor the levels which can be read inside the house.

Security lights

Security lights can have a very positive effect and make any property a harder target for thieves. It's not always necessary to floodlight the area with high power beams, as a more subtle level of lighting may be all that is needed. Low energy 'dusk 'til dawn' lights positioned close to the tank should, in most cases, provide sufficient light to illuminate any suspicious activity. This type of light can be both effective and inexpensive. High powered lights can be used but care should be taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours or road users.

Positioning your oil tank

The position of the tank can have a significant effect on how much of a target it is likely to become.

- Keep the tank in a well overlooked position - this will ensure any thieves are more likely to be seen.
- If your tank is close to the house make sure you can see it from your windows - this coupled with the lighting will make it less of a target.
- Alternatively enclosing your tank in a building which can be secured would be better still.
- Don't overlook the importance of ventilation if enclosing the tank - advice should be sought from your oil company.
- Always remember that access is required for any deliveries.

Perimeter security of your property can play a big part in reducing any crime.

- If you have a gate keep it closed and locked when you are out.
- Always make arrangements for access for your delivery driver - you could use combination padlocks or arrange deliveries when you are in.
- Make sure your perimeter fence is in good condition and is not easy to climb.
- Consider the use of trellis on top of any rear fencing to increase height.
- Nature provides its own defence in the form of prickly plants such as berberis and pyracantha. They can deter thieves as the smallest trace of blood can lead to them being identified. They can supplement fencing for protection and look more natural than some security fencing.

**Site specific crime prevention advice is available from
Norfolk Constabulary by contacting 0845 456 4567.**