



BUSINESS SECURITY

SCRAP METAL THEFT

Scrap metal is appealing to thieves because of the high value of semi-precious metals.

Building sites, occupied and unoccupied properties have items containing metals such as copper, aluminium, brass, bronze, cast iron and steel that can be a target for theft.

Common items stolen include:

- copper piping (from hot water systems, air conditioning units etc)
- electrical cable and wiring
- bathroom fittings (e.g. taps), water meters, pumps
- statues, manhole covers and grating
- steel fencing, guttering and roof sheeting
- catalytic converters from vehicles.

To reduce your chances of becoming a victim of scrap metal theft, please consider the following crime prevention security tips:

- Install security lighting, fences and lock gates.
- Aim to have goods delivered and installed on the same day.
- Consider marking materials (including copper piping) with spray paint to make them less attractive to thieves.
- Arrange for new materials to be stored securely and out of general view.
- Use anti-theft brackets on fixtures such as hot water systems.
- Keep building sites tidy. Do not leave scrap metal on site.
- Consider using CCTV and monitoring via an app on your mobile phone.
- Contact neighbouring properties (including businesses) and encourage occupants to report suspicious behaviour.
- Be aware of people loitering near properties or vehicles or removing materials from properties.
- Be alert to vehicles near building sites or unoccupied properties after hours.

Report all suspicious behaviour to the police assistance line on 131 444.

For more information please contact your local police station or visit www.police.sa.gov.au.

