

# Keeping metal safe

Always **call 999** if you think a crime is in progress  
**Call 101** if it's not an emergency or visit:  
[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)



# Advice for householders and businesses



- Don't leave metal, scrap, copper piping or batteries on display. Make sure they're stored out of sight and locked away or placed in lockable skips.
- Make it difficult for thieves to get access to your property – keep fences in good condition, restrict access, keep gates shut when not in use and locked overnight.
- Fit photoelectric (dusk 'til dawn) security lights around your property. Commercial properties, in particular, should consider CCTV and alarms.
- Remove or lock away items that thieves could use to climb on to the roof such as ladders, piles of pallets and recycling bins.
- Cut back any vegetation that might shield a thief from view and trees that could be used for climbing.
- Mark your property using ultra-violet pens, forensic marking fluids or use a hammer and set of punches for heavier metal items.
- Lock equipment, tools or materials in sea containers if they need to be stored away from buildings.
- Lock away items like trailers that opportunist thieves could use to transport stolen metal and restrict vehicle access at night.
- If you see vehicles or people behaving suspiciously, or individuals who seem to be loitering or out of place – call us on **101** or **999**.
- Consider joining, or setting up, a local Watch Scheme, such as Neighbourhood Watch.

## Buying or selling metal

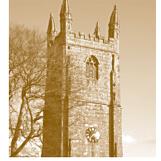
Please note: you're now required to take photo ID and proof of address when you sell metal at a scrap dealer in this area. Due to changes in the law you'll also be paid either by cheque or electronic bank transfer rather than cash.

Please let us know if you're not asked to provide ID or you're offered cash for your metal.

Please also let us know if you're approached by anyone offering cash for scrap metal away from metal yards. You can either call **101** or email us through the website **[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)** Alternatively, you can call the independent charity Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

**Reporting a crime?** Call 101 or go to [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)  
In an emergency, or if the crime is ongoing, call 999

# Advice for churches and historic buildings



If you see anyone, including workmen, working on churches or community buildings at any time of the day or night, please contact your local police who will confirm whether they're legitimate.

There are a number of things churches and historic buildings can do to help minimise the risk of falling victim to metal thieves:

- External lighting can deter thieves, such as photoelectric (dusk 'til dawn) lighting, which uses energy-efficient bulbs to keep electricity costs down.
- If possible, install a roof alarm. Passive infrared (PIR) motion detectors work wirelessly: when the alarm is triggered, a voice-enhanced sounder and strobe lights activate to deter intruders, alerting security firms and the police as well as people in the near vicinity. National figures show they are very effective in decreasing lead thefts.
- Think about covering drainpipes and other items that could give thieves access to the roof in anti-climb paint (You will need to display warning signs.) Place prickly or spiky plants at the bottom.
- Sheath or cover any copper taping used for lightning conduction at ground level and up to approximately 2.4 metres.

- Remove or lock away items such as ladders, bins or water butts to stop thieves easily climbing on to your roof.
- Lock away items that opportunist thieves could use to transport stolen metal such as wheel barrows and restrict vehicle access at night.
- If lead is stolen from the roof, consider alternative materials as a replacement to prevent further crimes. Speak to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for advice.
- Ask people living near the church or historic building to look out for suspicious activity or vehicles in the area and report it to police.

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**Make a note** of any high value items here.

Item	Colour/make/model	Serial or registration number	Distinguishing marks	Date

You can register them on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

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**Make a note of any suspicious vehicles** you have seen or that get circulated through your local Watch scheme. If you see them in your area, report them to the police.

Make/model	Colour	Registration number	Date	Place seen