

Crime prevention advice for making your business safer



You can prevent crime by taking simple measures to ensure site safety and security inside and outside your business. This will help to deter criminals from attempting to gain access to your business.

Tips to consider:

Perimeter Security

- When installing perimeter security, fencing is highly recommended and effective against criminals. It is important to make sure all entry points are robust and secure.

Surveillance

- The level of security you invest in should depend on the level of risk your business is subjected to e.g. the area the business is located, age of the building and business specialism. CCTV, alarms, security lighting and naturel surveillance by employees are some of the most important security features to consider.

Alarms

- Alarms are an effective deterrent against criminals. They provide a useful warning.
- There are a wide variety of alarms available to purchase depending on requirements and budget. A reputable alarm company will be able to advise you on options available. It is also worthwhile checking with your insurer as your premium can be reduced by taking extra security measures.

CCTV

- CCTV systems are an effective and useful tool for crime prevention and can help with the investigation of crime. However, careful consideration must be given to placement and management of any CCTV system. For the system to be effective you should take the following advice:
- Make sure the camera faces towards the main doorway/entrance so you get a clear head and shoulders image of everybody entering and leaving the premises.
- Make sure there is enough light for the camera to give a proper picture.
- Place CCTV signs and public warning signs that they are being recorded around your building/s and inside reception areas.

Security Lighting

- Installing security lighting outside your business is a good deterrent for criminals. It often makes criminals feel vulnerable and observed; it should highlight high-risk areas and allow occupiers to see people approaching.





- The type of lighting you require will depend on the level of risk, the geography of the area and the type of surveillance you already have in place. The most common form of lighting is passive infrared, which is activated when someone comes into its field of vision.

Car Parks

- Car parks should be in good view; in well-lit areas that are safe to access from the buildings they serve.
- Professionally installed CCTV systems and guard patrols (for larger car parks) are ideal for car park security. Barriers are also effective.

Building Security

- Your building security is vital to help prevent thieves entering your premises. It is important to identify possible weak points, which can include doors, windows, delivery bays, and skylights, access hatches and ventilation grilles.
- Windows:
 - Windows on the ground floor and at the back or side of your building should be fitted with good quality window locks.
 - Blinds can be fitted to prevent criminals from seeing any electrical equipment, high value goods or stock inside.
 - Shutters and grilles can be added as additional security.
- Doors:
 - Quality doors locks for many businesses still provide the most cost effective and simple security measures.
 - External doors should be strong enough to withstand attack and possibility linked to an alarm.
 - Consider security for internal doors as well as external so you can limit access for thieves if they do happen to get in e.g. locking stationery cupboards or computer rooms when they are not in use.
- Reception Areas
 - One of the most important areas of security is your reception area. It is normally the first point of contact in any business so it provides the first line of defence.
 - The reception area should never be left unattended during business hours.
 - Every visitor entering the building should sign in and out and be issued with an identification badge or security pass.
 - Ensure your reception staff are given basic security training.
 - Ensure reception has an emergency alarm button.
 - Install electronic or mechanically controlled doors where necessary.
 - Bank daily, do not keep cash on the premises if at all possible.
 - Bank at different times of the day and preferably at different branches, try not to be in a regular routine.
 - If you have a safe, secure it to the floor and site it away from view.