



Fact Sheet

What Can You Do To Avoid Being a Target of Copper Theft?

To report copper theft, and to see recent theft in your area, visit www.scraptheftalert.com.

- As part of your hiring practice, consider doing a criminal background check on all applicants. This may give you additional insight into a prospective employee.
- Avoid storing copper wire, pipe, fittings and other components at remote jobsites. Even securing a parts trailer with a lock is not a deterrent to motivated thieves.
- Look at the security of your premises. Consider installing a security system that includes motion detectors and cameras. Although the initial cost may seem high, it can pay for itself if it eliminates one theft loss. Keep in mind a thief might enter your premises with the intention of stealing copper but may find other objects to take.
- If your business is to install copper wire, consider pre-cutting the wire and delivering what you need at a jobsite on a daily basis. This will avoid large quantities sitting at a job waiting to be used.
- 90 percent of all theft takes place on weekends. Have someone check the jobsite several times during the weekend. Provide sufficient lighting at night as a potential deterrent.
- Thefts often occur during the pre-drywall installation phase of construction. Consider this when planning a job. If possible, install copper at the end of the job.
- Build partnerships with local scrap companies in the area. Many recycling centers will not accept copper that has been painted.
- Inform law enforcement about construction sites and provide after hour and emergency contact information.
- If you sustain a loss, consider the following steps in your investigation:
 1. Take pictures.
 2. Protect the crime scene.
 3. Preserve the evidence.
 4. Talk with people who may have witnessed the crime.
 5. Identify the cable markings. They reveal the cable's original location and can assist in identifying the suspect or provide an affirmative lead.

Tips from Westfeld Insurance