



# Domestic Heating Fuel Theft



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

**POILEAS ALBA**

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Fuel theft is a significant crime that affects people and businesses across the UK including farming, motorists, homeowners and the construction industry. This type of theft is exacerbated during periods of inflated oil prices. Scan the QR code below for Secured by Design member companies that can offer products designed to reduce the risk of fuel theft.

**Securing and protecting a domestic kerosene heating fuel tank, especially one located outside, involves several key measures to prevent theft.**

Theft techniques include syphoning the fuel into plastic containers or using a fuel transfer pump to steal from larger bulk vehicles, or in the case of bowzers, driving off with them when they are out on site.

## Location and Visibility

Position the tank in a well-lit, visible area. Avoid secluded spots that are easily accessible to intruders. Installing motion-activated lights can deter potential thieves.

## Physical Barriers

Enclose the tank within a secure, lockable cage or fence. This adds an extra layer of protection and makes unauthorised access more difficult. Ensure the enclosure is robust and cannot be easily dismantled.

## Locks and Alarms

Use high-quality locks on the tank's fill cap and any access points. Consider installing an alarm system that triggers if the tank is tampered with. Modern systems can send alerts to your phone or a monitoring service.

## Surveillance

Install CCTV cameras to monitor the area around the tank. Visible cameras can act as a deterrent, while recorded footage can be invaluable for police investigations if an incident occurs.

## Use anti-siphoning devices

Fuel tanks should also be fitted with a locking fuel cap and anti-siphoning devices. Anti-siphoning devices are installed in the filler aperture of the fuel tank to stop a pipe from being dipped into the fuel and the fuel being pumped or syphoned out of the tank.

These products also work on HGVs or construction plant, as well as on static on-site fuel tanks. Always ensure you use an accredited lock that meets the Police Preferred Specification.

## Regular Inspections

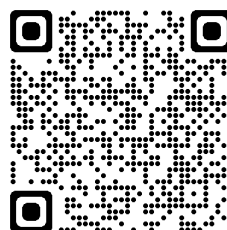
Conduct frequent checks of the tank and its surroundings. Look for signs of tampering, leaks or damage. Regular maintenance can prevent issues from escalating and ensure the tank remains secure.

## Community Awareness

Engage with your neighbours and local community. A neighbourhood watch scheme can be effective in deterring crime. Informing your neighbours about the presence of a fuel tank and encouraging vigilance can enhance security.



For further information regarding preventing fuel theft scan the QR code below.



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