



## **Tips for keeping Home Heating Oil Safe.**

The cost of heating oil has escalated in recent years, and the incidence of oil thefts reflects this. There is no magic remedy for securing your oil tank, but the following advice may assist you.

- Consider screening your tank with fencing or hedges.
- Close and secure any perimeter gates.
- Try to restrict vehicle access in the vicinity of your tank. If it is safe to do so, perhaps you could park your own vehicles in close proximity to make it more awkward for a thief to steal the oil.
- Conceal or cover any external oil pipe work and fuel lines.
- Install low-wattage 'Dusk-to-Dawn' security lighting.
- Regularly check your fuel levels, Consider installing a sensor that is monitored from inside the home (Such as a 'Watchman Sonic' Monitor).
- Consider installing a tank alarm/security device (consult your tank supplier) – 'Watchman' also produce an alarmed version of their 'Sonic' monitor.
- Join a NHW scheme & keep an eye out—telephone 999 immediately if you see anything suspicious – either at your own address or a neighbour's. Tanks at buildings such as village halls, schools, etc are especially vulnerable. If you are able to, note vehicle Index Numbers and descriptions of suspicious persons, and the direction of their travel.
- Many oil tanks are of non-standard construction, some plastic, and some metal. Any security measures that directly affect the tank or pipe work should be carried out in consultation with your Heating Oil tank supplier.
- Check your Home Insurance Policy to ensure that you are covered for any loss of oil and/or damage or contamination which may occur as a result of crime.
- For further advice, please ring Suffolk Constabulary on 01473 613500 and ask for the Crime Reduction Officer for your area. Further help on Crime Reduction can be found via the Suffolk Constabulary website: [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk)
- Although specific company names and products are mentioned this should not be taken as an unequivocal endorsement of the product or supplier by Suffolk Constabulary.

Crime Prevention advice is given free, without the intention of creating a contract. Suffolk Police take no legal responsibility for the advice given.