



Nottinghamshire Police

Crime Prevention

Advice

Securing your oil tank

To speak to us call **101** or in an emergency dial **999**



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www.nottinghamshire.police.uk

Sign up for advice and crime alerts at www.nottinghamshirealert.co.uk

Location of your oil tank

The position and appearance of the tank can have a significant effect on how difficult it is to target in the eyes of the thief. If the tank is close to your house, with one or more windows overlooking it, a thief may consider their chances of being seen too high. If the tank is close to a road, path, drive or alleyway, it is far easier to target. Hiding your tank behind a garage, shed or outbuilding is an option, but it can give a thief the advantage of working unseen

Padlocks

A thief will usually come equipped with tools to attack your tank so it's worth investing in good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are most effective as they offer most resistance to tools such as bolt croppers.

If possible, padlocks should be shrouded to make bolt cropping of locks or brackets difficult for an offender

Consider camouflage

Surround your oil tank with tall plants if the area gets adequate sun. Leave a space of several feet between the tank and the bushes. Bushes like juniper, holly, lilac or boxwood provide width and height when fully grown as well as looking attractive. Use evergreen bushes for full coverage at all times of year.

- Surround your oil tank with tall plants
- Install a trellis fence and cover it with hanging vines such as cucumber or trumpet vine. Place a gate on one side to allow access for oil refilling or repair
- Use prefabricated fence panels to construct a fence that goes around the entire oil tank
- Defensive planting is nature's way of helping to reduce crime.

Thieves will not want to force their way through or over a thorny hedge

Oil level gauges

Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available. They set off an alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full

Devices that send an alert to your mobile phone are also available

Security lighting

It is strongly advised that you install PIR (motion activated) lighting in the area of your tank. Static lighting can aid an offender in their crime, whereas lighting that goes on and off is likely to alert you or passers by to someone being outside, and is also likely to deter the offender

Gravel

Consider gravelling the access route to your tank, or around the tank. This will make noise when it is walked over. This could serve to alert you and deter a potential thief

Fencing

A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can give significant protection to the tank. A metal grill or cage with a lockable access point across the top of this wall or fence can further improve security

CCTV

The use of CCTV as a crime prevention and detection tool has grown immensely in recent years. However you must ensure that cameras don't overlook your neighbours' private property or focus solely on pavements or public roads

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www.immobilise.com

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