

Crime Prevention Ideas
for building owners

**DON'T BECOME
A VICTIM
IF YOU OWN A
VACANT BUILDING**



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Safer Communities Together





If your building is unoccupied or under construction:

The Southland Police, Invercargill Fire Service, the Insurance industry and the Invercargill City Council believe the following ideas will help you prevent offences occurring on your property.

- Advise the Police, Fire Service, Invercargill City Council and your insurance company that the building is unoccupied.
- Speak with the occupants of neighbouring buildings - they can help you by keeping an eye on any activity at your building.
- Provide the name and contact details of a contact person to the Police, Fire Service, Invercargill City Council and neighbours, in case they need to contact you about your building.
- Security - consider installing alarms or video surveillance.
- Check your building, or appoint someone to do this (weekly if practical), both inside and out. Look for suspicious activities and any indication of an offence having been committed, e.g. burglary, theft, wilful damage.
- Locks - all doors, windows and skylights should be secured with the best possible locks. Check these regularly for signs of tampering.
- Roof - ensure there is no easy access to the roof from either inside or outside the building. Ensure ladders, rubbish bins or other objects are secured and cannot provide access to windows or the roof.
- Tools and equipment - ensure any contractors do not leave tools or equipment in public view. Tools and equipment should be clearly marked and identifiable features noted in case they are stolen.
- Consider limiting public access to scaffolding to deter the public climbing on it.
- Keys - limit access to keys and engrave 'do not copy' on all keys if supplied to contractors or others.
- Fire risk - ensure no inflammable rubbish is left lying close to the outside walls of buildings.
- Insurance - Insurance companies should be informed if your building is unoccupied. They need to know about a change of use. The excess on your policy may be changed.
- The building and section should be maintained in a manner which minimises the appearance that it is vacant.
- Maintain automatic fire alarm detection and suppression systems to provide early warning of fires.
- Remove graffiti promptly.
- No vacant building or part of a building should be used to store flammable liquids or other materials.
- Disconnect all utilities not required for essential services.
- Ensure that any postal or other deliveries are stopped and letter flaps in doors are sealed up.