



# ROMSEY SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

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## DIESEL OIL AND DOMESTIC FUEL THEFT Safeguarding Storage Tanks And Contents

Although it is not significant, the police do receive from time to time reports of domestic fuel theft from storage tanks, especially in remote rural locations.

Residents who use this form of energy to power their homes are therefore advised to consider adopting preventative measures to help reduce the risks of becoming a victim. Measures that should be considered include:

**Padlocks:** A thief will usually come equipped with a range of tools to attack your tank so it's worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to the most popular of burglar tools; the bolt cropper! Due to their design, close shackle padlocks have very little of the metal hoop (shackle) exposed and bolt croppers cannot get a good grip. Remember that buying a padlock is like buying a car, the more you pay the better the quality and the longer it will last.

**Oil Level Gauges:** Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full. These gauges can be located in the kitchen, or perhaps a utility room to warn of any potential problem. There are two or three different versions on the market at the moment and cost between £70 and £100.



**Defensive Planting:** Defensive planting is nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will not wish to force their way through or over a prickly hedge. The smallest trace of blood or shred of ripped clothing could help the police identify the offender. These shrubs can, if planted around your tank, provide an effective and decorative thief proof barrier.

**Securing Your Oil Tank:** Fences and walls can also make life difficult for the thief. A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can provide protection but it must be remembered that the oil tanker driver will need to gain access. A metal grill or cage with a lockable access point can further improve security.

To contact your local Romsey Safer Neighbourhoods officers, telephone 101 or email us at: [romsey.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:romsey.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

Call Hampshire Constabulary on **101**

In an emergency always call **999**

For more information visit [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

