

Church risk

Theft of Metal

Due to economic factors, metal theft is escalating. Based on our experience, we've put together this checklist to help reduce the chance of it happening at your church.

We strongly recommend as a minimum you use SmartWater if you have not already done so, as this is a requirement of your insurance. Additional actions such as installing an

electronic roof security system or CCTV will further reduce the risk of a theft occurring.

If you have had a recent metal theft act quickly. Don't be complacent - if you replace stolen metal with lead or copper and do not improve security the thieves will be back.

Checklist (check and tick as appropriate)

Check each item below and tick 'yes' or 'no' as appropriate. If you put 'no' next to any item please consider whether there are any additional steps you need to take. You can find further information at www.ecclesiastical.com/theftofmetal.

Has SmartWater (or an alternative forensic marking system approved by us) been applied to external metal, the signage displayed, and has your kit been registered?

Note that this is a condition of your insurance.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Have vegetation and tall trees around the church which could screen criminal activity been cut back to maximise surveillance levels?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Have neighbours been asked to report suspicious activity to the police?

Yes ☐ No ☐

During repair work do you tell the congregation and church neighbours what's happening and when so they can report suspicious activity outside of working hours?

Yes ☐ No ☐

During building work, do you ensure builders follow crime prevention principles and lock tools away and keep church secure?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you engage with local police to make sure they are aware of ongoing attacks on churches and include the church in their patrols?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Has your local Crime Reduction Officer attended church and given advice?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Have all means of easy access to roofs such as water butts, waste bins etc. been removed?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Are ladders securely stored?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Are wheelie bins, wheelbarrows etc. that could be used to transport stolen metal stored in a secure place?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

When the church is unoccupied is vehicular access restricted by locked gates or bollards if possible?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

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Check each item below and tick 'yes' or 'no' as appropriate. If you put 'no' next to any item please consider whether there are any additional steps you need to take. You can find further information at www.ecclesiastical.com/theftofmetal.

Has an Ecclesiastical approved electronic roof security system or CCTV been installed to protect the area of external metal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Has anti-climb paint been applied to accessible downpipes and low level roof areas?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Have lower sections of lightning conductor ribbons been protected using a metal cage or sheath securely fixed to the fabric of the building?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Has security lighting been installed around the church, including at roof level where metal roof coverings are present and is it working correctly?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Note that this is only a guide and on occasions we have been surprised at the lengths thieves will go to in order to steal even small amounts of metal. Please remain vigilant. PCCs should consult their local Police Crime Reduction Officer for further advice on security measures that can be introduced to help combat metal theft, such as including the church building on their patrols.

For the latest metal theft advice and guidance notes, visit www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters or call customer services on

0345 777 3322

Claims

If you need to make a claim please call us on

0345 603 8381

Or email churchclaims@ecclesiastical.com

You can report a claim 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If it is safe to do so, please take photographs of the damage as soon as you can after it has been discovered.

SmartWater solution and signage

Special discounted church packs including solution and signage are available direct from SmartWater Technology Ltd.

You can place an order by calling their Church Ordering team on **01952 204102** (Monday to Thursday - 9.00am to 5.30pm and Friday - 9.00am to 5.00pm) or by emailing church@smartwater.com. Please make sure you have your church insurance policy number to hand before you call SmartWater.

Remember the registration and use of SmartWater, or an alternative forensic marking system approved by us, is a policy condition on both our Parishguard and Hallguard policies.

Scaffolding

Building works, especially roof and other high level repairs may need scaffolding to be used while the work is in progress. **It is important to note that our Parishguard and Hallguard insurance policies exclude the theft of metals whilst scaffolding is erected.** However, we may be able to provide some cover provided certain conditions are met. Please call us on **0345 777 3322** well in advance of any works that involve scaffolding so we discuss our requirements with you. You can also download our Scaffolding Checklist from our web site.



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