

Keeping your construction site safe

Construction sites are a favourite choice for thieves as there's often a lot of valuable equipment and materials around. You may never be able to stop professional thieves gaining access, but you can take steps to reduce the risk of it happening. Here are some common-sense tips to keep your stuff safe.



Start with the basics

These precautions seem obvious, but you'd be surprised how often they're not used. The following are good habits to get into.

- Make sure your construction site is securely fenced, gated and well lit, and remember to lock gates when nobody is present, especially after hours.
- Display warning signage e.g. 'Authorised Personnel Only' or 'Keep Out' signs – it shows you're aware of the risk of intruders.
- Consider investing in electronic security systems such as intruder alarms, sirens and CCTV surveillance systems if you haven't got them.
- Park heavy equipment such as Bobcats, diggers etc. in the same area to help keep track of them. Secure all keys in a safe or lockbox. To reduce risk further, lower blades or buckets, remove batteries or wheels, and install locks to immobilise controls.
- Employ a guard onsite or security patrols that make frequent visits randomly and after hours.

Lock around the clock

Good quality locks deter thieves and make it harder for them to simply grab and go.

- Lock up tools, equipment and building materials in storage boxes, shipping containers or sheds. Use close shackle padlocks and heavy-duty chains.
- Lock site offices, storage sheds/containers and toolboxes even when the site is operating. Thefts are sometimes inside jobs.
- Lock all doors and windows once they are installed and consider installing security alarms.
- Check that all master keys are accounted for, and retrieve them from contractors once used.
- Make the checking of all shed, machine and tool-box locks a daily routine.

Keep track of deliveries

- Arrange delivery of building materials on a just-in-time basis and only when someone is on site to receive them.
- Schedule the delivery of major appliances and whiteware to coincide with their installation and don't leave appliance packaging in view.



Make record-keeping a routine

- Perform background checks on employees and contractors.
- Control contractor and visitor access to the site – and keep records.
- Maintain an inventory of equipment, and also a tool check-in/check-out system so there is a record of who's using what tools.
- Record and keep tools and equipment serial numbers in a safe and secure place.
- Consider marking tools and equipment with an identifier such as engraved name, mobile number etc. This makes them less attractive both to a receiver of stolen goods and also shops purchasing second hand goods.
- Photograph your tools and equipment with receipts to aid in proof of ownership. Keep your receipts if you can.

Visit vero.co.nz/risk-profiler to check out our other risk guides for more tips and in-depth information about managing risk.

vero

Disclaimer – The information presented is of a general nature only and is provided only to help you understand some of the physical risks a business may have and what an insurer might expect you do to manage those risks. It is not intended for any other purpose. You should always seek appropriate professional advice about how you manage the particular risks in your business. No representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the accuracy or completeness of the information and no responsibility is accepted for any loss, penalty or damages (including special or consequential damages) arising out of the use of all or part of the information. The information presented does not replace the need for appropriate professional advice. Reliance on this communication will not affect or influence policy response.