

PREVENTING COPPER THEFT

More and more people are finding their property rummaged for copper. Why? This valuable metal is being sold as scrap for big money. How can you protect yourself from this theft? Read more about some easy steps you can take.

- Install motion sensitive lights - thieves generally don't like to be in the spotlight.
- Keep all landscaping away from air conditioning units and other copper sources – do not provide a thief with a hiding place. Keep them out in the open!
- Upgrade your security system to include motion sensitive cameras. Sure, it costs a few dollars, but how much is your insurance deductible? If cameras prevent theft they will pay for themselves!
- Audible alarms are available for your air conditioning units – an audible alarm will sound if a line is cut resulting in a loss of refrigerant pressure. They can be as reasonable as \$200. A similar alarm is available that activates a siren when an attempt is made to move an outside AC unit.
- Paint or tin your copper – painted and tinned copper is almost useless to recycling facilities and the people stealing it know that!
- Engrave your copper – your name and address will surely let recyclers know it was stolen. Additionally, if you are able, a nice engraving that reads: "STOLEN! DO NOT RECYCLE!" might have thieves thinking twice about that particular piece of copper.
- Protect your air conditioning units with theft deterrent cages and tamper resistant screws. A cage that fits snug around your air conditioning unit will keep thieves away. And for less than \$100 you can replace all the screws on your air conditioning unit with tamper resistant ones. Both devices require a special key that only you will have, and not the thieves.