

Property marking

The main purpose of marking your property is to make items less attractive to thieves who may be intent on stealing it in the first place as they will know if they are caught in possession of stolen items the Police can quickly establish it's identity.

In addition, traceable property may be more difficult to "cash in" with another criminals or to a willing purchaser of the item. Of course it also greatly enhances the chances of people being re-united with their property, which is important too.

Although etching or punching a Postcode and house number or name/company name on property can be very effective it is often not a practical option so we have to look at other ways of effective Property Marking.

Electronic marking

If a Mobile Phone is stolen or lost, the police will be checking www.immobilise.com if they find it in the possession of a criminal or in the street etc to identify it. It is a free service and takes a few minutes on line to register your phones details. The same principle applies to a bicycle with the Frame number etc being registered. at www.immobilise.com. Warning stickers are available from the company.

Secured by Design companies and products

The Association Of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) recommends via its SecuredbyDesign scheme Property Marking Products/Companies that satisfy their criteria. Go to www.securedbydesign.com, click on licensed companies then Property Identification to asses your choices. It may be worth checking with your local Crime Reduction Officer on 01622 690690 to see if there are any ongoing initiatives in your area that the local police are working on.

Forensic marking

Forensic Marking solutions are readily available on the market such as SmartWater, SelectaDNA, RedWeb and Crimestoppers Property Protector and if you are interested in one of these security systems, please contact your local Crime Reduction Officer for more information or visit:

www.smartwater.com

www.selectadna.co.uk

www.redweb.com

www.crimestopperspropertyprotector.com

Forensic solutions have a unique code and so each bottle is identifiable and registered to your address. Most forensic solutions are only visible under UV light.

UV pen marking

UV pen marking still has a role to play in the crime prevention arena and it is simple and inexpensive. The principle here is that you mark your postcode followed by the house number or name on property with an UV pen, which is invisible to the naked eye. Again displaying stickers usually supplied with the pen to illustrate that you have done this. Police have access to UV lights, which show up postcodes etc when shone on your property.

Photography

Taking photographs of valuable property is recommended for reconciliation/prosecution of offender purposes, particularly if it is not possible to property mark items (ie antiques etc...)

Your local Police Crime Reduction Officers can advise as necessary regarding Property and be contacted on 101.