



Buildings

- Wherever possible take valuable equipment such as horse tack etc. home with you each night. If this is not always possible, store in a secure building behind a strong locked door, or use a metal cage and keep it locked when unattended.
- Do not put signs on doors such as Tack Room or Feed Shed as this immediately lets offenders know where to target. Check your insurance, as there may be specific requirements on security of specific high value items on your policy.
- When not in use, lock away or make secure wheelbarrows, forks and shovels as these items could be used to force entry to buildings or carry stolen items away.
- Keep all items secure when not in use such as the likes of rugs, generators, electric fence energisers when not in use.
- Use locks that comply with the British Standards, good quality locking bars and high security padlocks.
- Windows can be an open invitation to thieves - protect them with metal bars or grilles and ensure the roof is not a weak area that thieves may target for entry.

Yard

- Keep gates closed at all times.
- Ensure that gates cannot be lifted off their hinges, i.e. turn the hinges or seal them.
- Install security lighting around yards, outbuildings and isolated locations. Consider installing perimeter alarms, where practical.
- Consider CCTV, there are many systems now available including where there is no power or internet availability.
- Challenge anyone that comes onto the yard that you do not recognise to ensure they have a legitimate reason for being there.
- Be aware of any suspicious vehicles or persons and report to the police.
- If you have vehicles on your yard such as horseboxes, trailers and cars, have a designated area that they are parked in and made secure, preferably away from the road or public footpaths. If possible, store in a secure building or yard/area with beam alarms and CCTV.

Perimeter

- Check fences and hedges on a regular basis ensuring vulnerable areas are secure so that offenders could not use them or your horse could get onto the road.
- Make sure gates cannot be lifted off the chain or hinges. Use approved locks and chains.
- Block off gate places that are not used with a large barrier such as a tree trunk, concrete block or other item.
- Have signs on gates and entrances to the yard showing you are in an approved scheme such as Horse Watch or Rural Watch.

Equipment and Tools

- Lock or immobilise vehicles and equipment when not in use. Remove keys from cars, tractors and other vehicles left unattended.
- Visibly mark your equipment and tools - this not only acts as a deterrent to thieves but also helps the police reunite stolen property to the rightful owner if it is recovered.
- Keep a list of tools, together with serial numbers and any identifying marks. You can also register these on www.immobilise.com and tag if stolen.
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