

## Defensive planting

Defensive planting is nature's way of helping to reduce crime.

Thieves will not wish to force their way through or over a prickly hedge. The smallest trace of blood or shred of ripped clothing could help the Police identify the offender.

Crimestoppers produce a leaflet which shows the advantages of Defensive Planting and provides a list of shrubs suitable for this purpose. These shrubs can, if planted around your tank, provide an effective and decorative thief proof barrier.

## Securing your oil tank

Following on from the defensive planting tactic, fences and walls can also make life difficult for the thief. A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can give significant protection to the tank but it must be remembered that the oil tanker driver will need access to fill the tank! A metal grill or cage with a lockable



access point across the top of this wall or fence can further improve security. The wall or fence should be as close to the tank and as high as possible. Of course a trellis could also be decorated with defensive planting as illustrated above.

A product called 'Tank Guard' has just become available which surrounds the existing storage tank with a metal enclosure. This sheet metal enclosure has lockable access doors to allow filling and maintenance and has internal anchorage points to fix it to the concrete base. A tank guard costs less than one tank full of oil and will last for many years.

## Closed circuit television

The use of CCTV as a crime prevention and a crime detection tool has grown massively in recent years. It could play a part in the protection of oil tanks but before you spend lots of money on equipment make an assessment of your needs.

### Ask yourself:

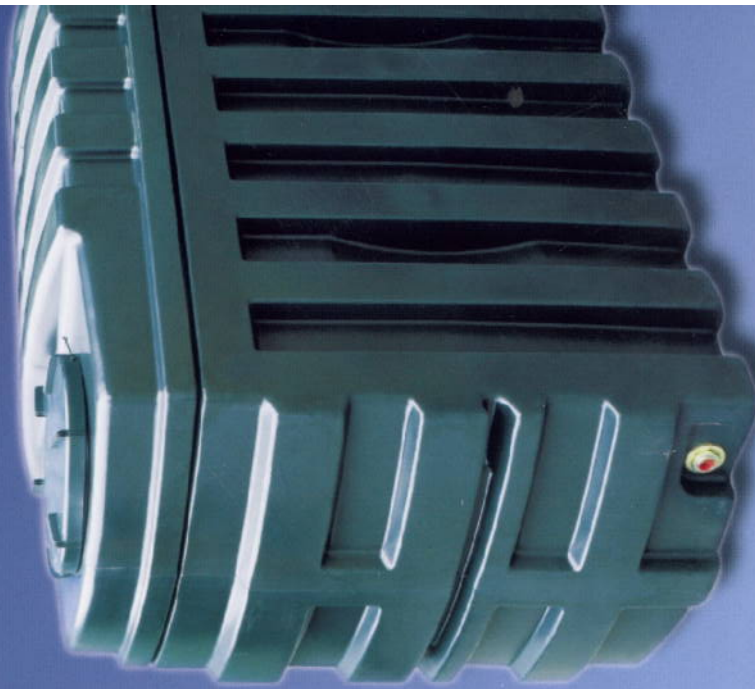
1. What do I hope to achieve by using CCTV?
2. How much am I prepared to spend?
3. Is there a reasonable level of light where the cameras will be operating or do I need to think about using cameras with low light capability? (Most thefts take place at night).
4. What am I going to record the captured images on? Digital recording is best.
5. How am I going to provide the Police with any evidence I may capture?

The object of this whole leaflet has been to illustrate ways in which we can make it more difficult for a thief to steal heating oil. Nothing mentioned here will make it impossible for them to achieve their goal, but if some of the suggestions made are followed it just may make a difference.



# Heating & Diesel Oil Theft

## Don't become a victim



If you require any further information on the contents of this leaflet contact your local Crime Prevention Officer in Hertfordshire Police on 101 or [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk)  
Produced by The Media Department, Essex, Police and Gloucestershire Police 2012



HERTFORDSHIRE  
CONSTABULARY



Hertfordshire  
**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
0800 555 111  
Call anonymously with information about crime