

Cooking Oil Theft



Reducing crime through partnership and prevention



There has been a spate of cooking oil thefts across the UK as its value increases. From the East Midlands to East Anglia and everywhere in between, thieves are taking every opportunity to drain takeaways and restaurants of the cooking oil they have either used, or are keeping in storage for future use.

It is believed that cooking oil theft costs the Treasury, on average, £25 million a year in lost duty and this is only set to increase.

During this modern age and at a time where we're all looking to reduce our carbon footprints, biodiesel and other types of biofuel are sought after and are being used far more frequently than they were a decade ago.

What's in this guide

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TOP TIPS

- Make sure oil levels are regularly checked.
- Install lockable fencing and gates to screen oil tanks.
- Install an alarm system.
- Consider CCTV.
- Be vigilant

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Check Oil Levels

Make sure that you check your oil levels frequently. Is it fluctuating between service visits? Could this be due to theft? Look for containers which have anti-tamper systems and built-in locks.

Look for containers which have anti-tamper systems and built-in locks. When choosing your used cooking oil container, there are a number of things you need to consider:

- The more oil produced, the larger the container should be. Choose one that works best for your volume and space.
- Indoor containers are obviously the most secure. If you have to place the containers outside, opt for lockable boxes.



Install Lockable Fencing and Gates

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Monitored CCTV, Alarm Systems and Lighting

Consider monitored CCTV and alarm systems for your premises. Intruder alarms and CCTV should be installed by a Private Security Authority (PSA) licensed security installer. Another consideration is an alarm system that will warn you if the oil level suddenly drops in your oil tank.

Lighting the area during the hours of darkness is a good investment. We recommend dusk till dawn lighting and you can install motion sensor lighting that comes on as trespassers enter the area, which could help deter would be thieves.



Be Vigilant

If you notice someone acting strangely around your property or causing trouble, don't ignore it. Make sure you know how to report suspicious behaviour.

Remember your personal safety should be paramount, if you feel at risk either stay securely in the building, or if necessary, contact police for assistance.

Make sure that your staff members and any security companies who control access to your service roads or back of house areas, know the name of the used cooking oil recycling service you use and have robust access control policies in place.

Some offenders will be bold and impersonate genuine oil recycling services. Ask for ID if you believe people claiming to be contractors are suspicious.

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Always Report Crimes to the Police

Always report crime to police. This allows police to capture the data and understand the full scale of the crime, which in turn informs their resources and tactics to tackle it.



When a crime is taking place, dial 999 in an emergency.



You can also report to the Police on 101 or alternatively, you can report online at www.police.uk



Helpful resources

Police recommended security products can be found at www.securedbydesign.com

