



## Clamp Down on Tool Theft

**It's Monday morning. You arrive at the job site eager to get going. You go to get the tools you left at the site over the weekend. They're nowhere to be found. Now what?**

Each year, more than \$1 billion worth of construction equipment is stolen from job sites, vehicles and shops. Don't be part of this statistic. Protect your tools and your livelihood by following a few simple rules:

- **Put all tools out of sight** in a secure area. What thieves don't see, they won't steal!
- **Know where your equipment is** at all times. It helps to establish an inventory system that includes a sign-out sheet for employees, assignment to specific job sites, etc.
- **Mark your equipment** with permanent identification. For example, etch your company name on tools. You can even color code your equipment to distinguish it from other contractors' tools. Equipment that can be easily identified is much less attractive to thieves.
- **Always lock your vehicle**, even when leaving it for short periods to make pickups or deliveries. The more difficult it is to take an item, the less likely theft will occur.
- **Padlock truck and trailer cargo doors** at all times.
- **Park your vehicle in highly-trafficked areas.** (Thieves don't like an audience!) This includes when you visit the supply shop or stop for lunch. Ideally, park it where you can see it.
- **Install alarm systems!** Vehicles known to be equipped with alarms are less likely to be targeted than those without.



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Of course, even with the best precautions, theft can occur. That's why it's important to have an inventory of all your tools and equipment. Include a description of the tool, manufacturer, model number, serial number, when acquired, cost when acquired and any specialized attachments, etc. Photos of the equipment are a good idea as they may help the police who might not be familiar with equipment designations and types.

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