Petrol, diesel and heating oil prices are constantly on the rise.

This makes oil a far more attractive prospect for thieves, as tanks outside homes, farms, and transport depots can contain thousands of pounds worth of oil.

However, **by taking a few precautions,** you can make it harder for thieves.

Useful contacts:

OFTEC
The Oil Firing Technical Association for the petroleum industry (OFTEC) offers advice and guidance for those who use and store oil at their premises.

There are certain rules and regulations that may apply to you, and OFTEC can help clarify these.

t: 0845 658 5080
w: oftec.org

Lothian and Borders Police
Report anything you see as suspicious (including vehicle registration numbers) to the police on:

0131 311 3131

Always call **999** in an emergency.

Lothian and Borders Police
Fettes Avenue
Edinburgh
Edinburgh EH4 1Rb

t: 0131 311 3131
w: lbp.police.uk

STOP FUEL THEFT!

A guide to preventing heating and diesel oil theft

NFUScotland

Lothian and Border Police

Where should I put my tank?

If possible, place the tank out of sight of the main road but in view from your home or main office. Hiding the tank behind the garage, shed or some other type of outbuilding is fairly common, but it can give the thief an advantage. Make sure the tank is within a reasonable distance of the road otherwise the oil supply company may not be able to refill it for you.

How do I secure my tank?

A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can give significant protection to the tank: a metal grille or cage with a lockable access point across the top will further improve security. The wall or fence should be as close to the tank and as high as possible. Check with the local authority building control for planning permission. You could also consider chemically 'tagging' the fuel.

Control switches

Control switches that control the flow of oil should be turned off and the electricity supply isolated when the tank is not in use.

Padlocks

Invest in a good quality lock. Closed shackle padlocks are most resistant to thieves as they expose very little of the metal hoop (shackle), therefore bolt croppers can't get a good grip.

For advice contact your local Crime Prevention Officer on 0131 311 3131

Oil level gauge

Remote electronic oil level gauges, which set off an alarm if the tank's oil level suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full, are now available. These gauges are kept in the home, to warn of any potential theft as it is happening.

Remember to check oil levels regularly as this will help you see whether any has gone missing. This could also result in earlier reports of theft.

Security lights

Consider putting in security lights. Low energy 'dusk til dawn' lights used near to the tank are both effective and inexpensive, and should provide enough light to show up anything suspicious. High powered lights can also be used, but care should be taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours.

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

You could also think about putting in CCTV. However, before you spend lots of money on equipment, assess your actual needs. For advice contact your local Crime Prevention Officer on **0131 311 3131**.