



RUNWAY

Postcoding your property

Introduction

Stolen property worth hundreds of thousands of pounds is recovered every year by the police, but cannot be returned to its rightful owners because it cannot be properly identified.

Postcoding your property can deter burglars and help the police to return your property if it is stolen.

How to postcode

Your postcode, together with your house number, provides a unique way to identify your property. For example, PS42 7QA 4 would mean house No 4 on the street with the postcode PS42 7QA.

Ways to postcode

Engraving or etching

This method leaves a visible and permanent mark and is suitable for many hard surfaces, e.g. cycles, lawnmowers, garden tools, etc. It can be done using an electric engraver tool or hand engraver. Your scheme members might possibly club together to buy such a tool.

Ultra Violet or 'Invisible' Marker

A UV pen can be used to put an invisible mark on your property. UV pens are readily available from your co-ordinator. This method is suitable for items such as computers, TV sets, DVD players, video recorders and similar items attractive to burglars.

Ceramic marking

Ceramic marker pens are available to postcode china, glass and any glazed surface. They do not cut or scratch.

Punching

You can mark heavy items with a hammer and a set of punches.

Jewellery and antiques

You should get expert advice before marking items such as jewellery or antiques.

Availability

You can buy easy-to-use property marking kits from security equipment suppliers, DIY stores and stationers.

Security

Keep a list, with photographs, of all the items you have marked and, preferably, give a second copy of the list to someone you trust totally.

Advertise

Advertise the fact that you have coded your property by displaying 'Coded for Keeps' stickers at strategic locations where a burglar might break in, e.g. rear patio door and windows.