



Vandalism

Vandalism is any deliberate act that damages or defaces property. Common vandalism targets for retailers include:

- Store lights, signs or windows.
- Graffiti on walls or other surfaces.

Repairing vandalism costs businesses millions of dollars each year and most end up passing on such costs to their customers through higher prices.

Vandalism can be reduced in the following ways:

- If your store is located where there is regular vehicular or pedestrian traffic, make sure your store and its surrounds are well lit. This may increase the likelihood of detection, deterring vandals.
- Use toughened glass in your windows, it reduces the chance that vandals efforts will succeed. Open style grilles or shutters reduce the opportunities for graffiti, whilst still providing protection to your store windows.
- With vandalism generally and graffiti in particular it is important to repair any damage (remove graffiti) as soon as possible. Property that is not maintained creates the appearance that the area is uncared for.
- Reduce the opportunity for vandals to access your property. Use locks on gates and install high open-style fences to deter vandals. Ensure the fences are not easy to climb on or over.
- As with all illegal acts upon your business, report them all to police.

Graffiti itself is the most common form of vandalism upon business properties. Follow these suggestions to help reduce its impact on your store:

- Remove graffiti promptly.
- Maintain your property.
- Install fencing that won't attract graffiti.
- Paint walls/fences with dark colours. Paint over graffiti using the same colour the wall is painted
- Plant vegetation in front of walls/fences.
- Improve lighting.
- Use graffiti coating in high risk areas.