

## Theft Awareness - Part Two

Knowing what criminals want and how they are stealing it is one good way to reduce the likelihood of your business becoming a victim of crime. In review of Garage Program claims three items are often stolen by thieves inside a business.

Cash is one of the most popular items thieves steal. They often steal cash from cashboxes left in plain view and cash register drawers while the attendant has been distracted by another party. Prevent this from happening by keeping your cashbox in a secured location, out of public view and always close the cash register drawer before turning away from the cash register. Post a visual reminder to keep the drawer closed if necessary. Secure safes to the floor so they can not be easily carried off and always keep it locked.

Cigarettes are also common items stolen from a business. Cigarettes should be kept in an area difficult to reach from the customer side of a counter. In addition, store cigarette surplus in a secured location at all times. Claims history shows that thieves often distract attendants while a partner slips undetected into an office or storage room where cigarettes are kept. Install an audible alert system on the storage room door so you know when someone is trying to access it.

Tools are also items stolen frequently. Tools are most often taken during break-ins. Have your tools engraved and install an alarm system on storage cabinets to help reduce the likelihood of these items also being stolen during business hours.

A professionally installed alarm system can help fight break-ins, but it is important to reinforce the alarm system with a backup alarm should the primary one be disabled. More often, alarms are disabled so they can not call out when a break-in occurs. Discuss alternatives to prevent this situation from happening with your local alarm system vendor.

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If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at [safety1st@markelcorp.com](mailto:safety1st@markelcorp.com).