



No rest for the wicked

Many builders and tradespeople may be on summer holidays but building-site thieves and vandals are not.

The Housing Industry Association is tackling the problems of theft and damage at sites through its Name and Shame campaign.

In November, 265 reports were made of theft and damage and the HIA estimates the total value of items stolen and damaged was more than \$130,000.

Stolen items included lintels, glass panels, door frames, doors, water meters, timber, bathroom fittings and bricks.

Several building sites also were damaged with graffiti.

Suburbs hardest hit were Butler, Ellenbrook, Aubin Grove, Baldivis, Southern River, Byford, Maddington, Belmont, Seville Grove and Secret Harbour.

The HIA suggests several ways to prevent or minimise trouble, including making sure sites are secure and sheds are locked.

Other tips are to move unused materials to the back of the site out of view, where possible; keep the site clear of loose materials, such as bricks and tiles, so they can't be thrown through windows; make sure Name and Shame signs are visible from the road and deliver campaign flyers to neighbours. The flyers include contact numbers to call if anyone is seen behaving suspiciously at the building site.

Another piece of advice for builders is to delay delivery of expensive items until after the holidays. If that isn't possible, they should let security firm Meridian Services know the address of the goods so extra attention can be given to the area.

Members of the public who see anything suspicious happening at building sites can call the security company on 0418 909 364 or 0409 717 757.

In the event of a burglary or vandalism on site, builders are asked to call the company as soon as possible so the evidence is preserved.

**For more information, call 1300 273 9273 or visit
www.hianameandshame.com.au.**
