Commercial crime has included theft of various items, including trucks, trailers containing loads of furniture, motor-cycles, other cargo, sheet metal, and wiring. Businesses face criminal behavior every day, from vehicle prowls and thefts to shoplifting.

Here are steps you can take to guard your business from criminals and protect your bottom line.

Kent Police are here to help you put criminals out of business.

Kent Police offers free crime prevention surveys to enhance business security. Staff is available to present crime prevention information to employees to help protect them and your bottom line. Businesses are encouraged to become active Business Watch members.

For more information, contact the Kent Police Business Watch program at 253-856-5851 or at http://ci.kent.wa.us/police/crimeprevention
Don’t give criminals an “excuse” to set foot on your property! Use this guide as a tool. “Case” your business as a criminal would. Check for the following:

**WINDOWS**
Windows should have secure locks, auxiliary locking devices, and shatter-resistant glass. Never stock valuable items near windows. Always double-check and secure at closing. Keep clear of signs and advertisements that may obstruct the view of a passerby or police officer.

**ROOF**
Lock attic doors, air vents, or skylights from the inside.

**LIGHTING**
Install exterior lighting to increase visibility in parking lots and around doors, windows, skylights, and other entry points.

**EXTRA TIPS**
Keep a current inventory of your business machinery, including brand, model number, serial number, and description of each item. Maintain key control procedures. Use heavy cables to lock down computers. Be sure your safe is fireproof and securely anchored. Deposit cash daily and vary the hours. Leave the cash registers empty and open at closing.

**FENCES**
Lack of secure fencing can be a risk factor. A fence can be the one extra step that a criminal does NOT want to take to get onto your property. A two-foot high concrete barrier erected around the fence can prevent drive-through.

**LANDSCAPING**
Trim back trees and shrubs near doors and around windows to eliminate hiding places for would-be thieves. Branches should not be lower than six feet and bushes should be under three feet. Plant thorny bushes under windows where a potential burglar might attempt to gain entry.

**DOORS**
All exterior or security doors should be metal or solid-core wood. All side and rear doors need peepholes for employee safety. Install alarms on unlocked doors. Place height guides at door entrances.

**PADLOCKS**
Padlocks should be made of steel and kept locked at all times. Remove serial numbers from your locks to prevent unauthorized keys from being made.

**ENTRANCES**
All entrances should be protected with deadbolt locks that have a bolt extending at least 1.5 inches into the door frame.

**BOXES:**
Remove any items, like stacks of boxes on the sides of the building, that may provide access to your rooftop.