

PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS - CONCEPTS AND TIPS

PRESENTED BY THE WINOOSKI POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Here are some general tips and ideas for your businesses layout, security system placement and other concepts

SECURITY/VIDEO SYSTEMS

A variety of do-it-yourself solutions are available online and in local stores in regard to security systems, alarm systems and digital video systems. There are also plenty of private vendors who will evaluate your property, provide an estimate, install and maintain a system for you. A digital monitoring system is most easily transferred among law enforcement and transmitted to other businesses.

COVERAGE AREAS

Doors, windows and valuables should all be covered by whatever system you choose to install – video, alarm or

otherwise. Cameras serve two purposes: inventory/suspect movement coverage, and suspect identification. One camera cannot do both things at the same time. Cameras set high to cover areas and capture movement will only recover an image of the top of the suspect's head. In addition to the usual cameras you may have in place for inventory control, place one camera at eye level looking at the patrons as they enter the business to capture their facial features. A second camera looking over the shoulder of your clerk to the patron's face serves the same purposes.

GPS TAGS

Many companies are producing small, cell phone sized GPS units that can be placed inside items such as business safes, the empty space inside a business's computer tower and similar items. In the event these items go missing from your place of business, their movement can be tracked using your computer to determine where the item is. While not foolproof, it is another tool you can use to recover your money, or more importantly, your data.

LIGHTING AND FENCES

Fencing off vacant alleyways or back access to your business will go a long way to protecting your business from loitering and other forms of unwanted activity. Installing bright lighting in these same areas, either full-time or on a motion sensor can deter would-be thieves. It never hurts to prominently advertize that the area is monitored by video surveillance, or to plant thorny shrubs in and around the fence line or window areas to discourage unwanted entry.

REPEAT GRAFFITI

Some surfaces seem to be spray painted again and again. The Department's website contains information on a variety of commercial products, including pretreatments that will make it easier to clean the graffiti off when it does occur. As mentioned above, fencing the area, lighting the area, and denying access through plantings may also help. Placing a trellis against the brickwork and planting a fast-growing twining vine (not a climbing vine) may further deter such behavior. Vines may cause some wear, but so will constant repainting.