# Crime prevention advice for
# property marking

Marking your property is a positive way to fight crime, it can act as a deterrent, it allows you to prove ownership and helps you to identify your property easily if it is offered for sale. Marking your property also provides a means for the Police to identify stolen goods and return them to their owners.

**There are a number of different ways to mark your property:**

**Visible Markers**
Permanent marker pens
Waterproof paint
Stencils
Engraving
Specialised overt marking kits available on the market such as Cremark (*being used for Rural Crime property marking events*)

**Invisible marker**
UV Pens
Specialised forensic kits such as SmartWater, SelectaDNA, Red Web etc. *(SmartWater kits are available through Warwickshire Horse Watch and Neighbourhood Watch at discounted prices).*

**What to Mark Your Property With:**

You can put any kind of mark on your property to distinguish it from other similar items. Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Rural Watch, Warwickshire Horse Watch and Neighbourhood Watch recommend using your postcode prefixed with the number of your address, i.e. 23 B78 1XX. A post code is unique to your property, which most organisations recognise and allows the goods to be identified and returned to you. Just putting a name or symbol on the property makes it identifiable, but does not provide details to the Police of who owns the property and where it came from.

It is strongly recommended that you take a photo of all your valuables and make a note of any distinguishing marks, including where and how you have property marked it. You can then print the photographs off and keep in a safe place, load onto your computer or keep on a memory stick. By having these records if your property is stolen you will have as much information as possible to give to the Police and also pass to retailers and other organisations to help locate your property.

On the websites www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk and www.warwickshire-horsewatch.co.uk there is a downloadable form you can use. Alternatively 'Immobilise' is a database system where you can

**Warwickshire Rural Watch**
Closing the gate on rural crime

**Warwickshire POLICE**

**Police and Crime Commissioner Warwickshire**