

# Copper theft is rampant.

You may have heard horror stories of homeowners returning home to discover their houses broken into and their copper water lines stolen.

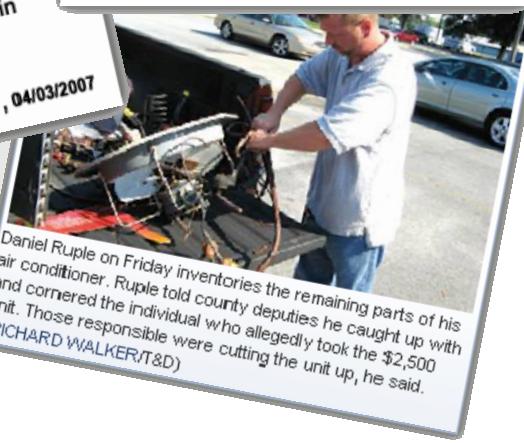
An even easier target of theft is the air conditioner condenser sitting outside the house. In a matter of minutes, thieves can cut the copper line and wires to the unit and walk off with a couple hundred dollars of copper in the form of your air conditioner.

## Copper Theft is Incredibly Widespread

In Memphis last week, WREG-TV reported that thieves had been stripping copper from air conditioning units at local businesses. In a recent case, someone turned on a vandalized air conditioner, and the thieves had left loose wires in the wall—the resulting fire did \$45,000 worth of damage.

—Jeff Caruso, Network World, 04/03/2007

The Department of Energy estimates that copper theft is now a \$1 billion problem. With copper prices surging from 80 cents to more than \$3 per pound, enterprising criminals have created a new commodity industry supplied by power lines, air conditioners, wiring and plumbing.



Daniel Ruple on Friday inventories the remaining parts of his air conditioner. Ruple told county deputies he caught up with and cornered the individual who allegedly took the \$2,500 unit. Those responsible were cutting the unit up, he said.  
(RICHARD WALKER/T&D)

## What you can do...

To help you deter copper-thieves, we are giving you the attached sticker to affix to your condenser. We're doing this as a small way of saying thanks for your loyalty.

The sticker (shown smaller than its 4-1/2" x 6" actual size) shows the copper line to the condenser being cut with a hacksaw that "Loss of refrigerant pressure will trigger ALARM". In this case the sticker uses a play on words as the 'alarm' triggered would certainly be your reaction to discovering you had no air conditioning or a stolen condenser. However, you do have the option to increase your protection.



Here are some of the options:

- Mount a motion detecting light near the condenser.
- Put a chain link fence with a top around the condenser.
- Install an actual alarm on the condenser. The basic setup senses power interruption or movement of the condenser. The advanced setup actually connects to the refrigerant line to sense lost pressure to set off the alarm.

While you consider these options, the sticker is likely to make a thief think twice about stealing your unit.

**Pass the word on to your friends and family members. If they want a sticker for their condenser, we'll give them one on your referral. They can stop by and pick one up.**

**Vincent's Heating & Plumbing, Inc.**

2650 Oak Street - Port Huron, MI 48060 - (810) 985-6603

*Conveniently located 3 blocks west of Oak Street*