

# ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT THEFT MITIGATION

## The Concern

The rising cost of construction materials, including electrical components, has become a significant concern. Factors such as supply chain disruptions, increased demand, and economic challenges have driven up prices, with many items experiencing price increases of 20% to 60%, and some more than doubling in value.

This increased value has made electrical equipment a prime target for theft on construction sites. These items are highly appealing to thieves due to their compact size and high demand. While large items like copper wire spools are still occasionally stolen, smaller and more valuable items, such as circuit breakers, are easier to steal. For example, a box of breakers that once cost a few hundred dollars can now be worth several thousand.

## Theft Day or Night

Theft of these materials does not just occur during non-working hours. Many construction sites are unmonitored during the day, allowing individuals to pose as workers, take valuable electrical components, and leave unnoticed. A hard hat and vest can provide easy access to thousands of dollars' worth of equipment.



## Mitigation Strategies

**To reduce theft during working hours, site access control is critical. Consider the following measures:**

- ◆ **Secure Storage:** Place the electrical contractor's materials in areas of the project that are not easily accessible.
- ◆ **Controlled Installation Areas:** Install electrical components only in areas with lockable doors. Access to these areas should be restricted to authorized persons within the construction management team.
- ◆ **Enhanced Monitoring:** Inform your securityguards and / or camera surveillance provider about critical connex boxes or areas where materials are stored / installed. Additional equipment or protocols may be needed to better detect and respond to intrusions within these high-risk zones.

By implementing these measures, construction sites can significantly reduce the risk of theft and protect valuable electrical equipment.

The information contained in this material is for information purposes only. This material should not be relied on or treated as a substitute for specific advice relevant to any particular circumstances. Appropriate steps to manage any of the risks described herein will vary depending on particular circumstances. This material should be considered in addition to all other relevant information, including the advice of professional advisors, best practices suggested by health and safety organizations and the requirements of any applicable policy of insurance. Technical Risk Underwriters shall not be liable for any loss alleged to relate to the provision of this material. Technical Risk Underwriters' operations are conducted through multiple legal entities, the choice of which depends on where the entities are authorized to operate. In the US, Technical Risk Underwriters is a series of RSG Underwriting Managers, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company based in Illinois (TRU US). In Canada, Technical Risk Underwriters is a division of RSG Insurance Services of Canada Limited (TRU Canada). TRU US and TRU Canada are subsidiaries of Ryan Specialty, LLC. Technical Risk Underwriters works directly with brokers, agents and insurance carriers, and as such does not solicit insurance from the public. Some products may only be available in certain states or provinces, and some products may only be available from surplus lines insurers. In California: RSG Insurance Services, LLC (License #OE50879); in British Columbia: RSG Technical Risk Underwriters Insurance Services; in Nova Scotia: Technical Risk Underwriters Insurance Services. ©2025 Ryan Specialty, LLC