



Buyer's guide to secure site accommodation

For construction sites that aren't always supervised



This guide will include:

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- 3 What the unit needs to do
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Why this matters

Construction sites that aren't always supervised face real risks:

- Theft of tools and materials
- Delays caused by disruption or damage
- Lost time replacing equipment and paperwork.

The right setup should help you:

- Keep the project moving
- Protect your team and equipment
- Create a more secure, professional site base.

Read this before you hire

Avoid choosing the wrong setup, underestimating total hire cost or creating avoidable site risk.

01 What is anti-vandal accommodation?

An anti-vandal cabin is a temporary hire unit specifically designed for sites that are not always supervised.

Unlike a standard cabin, AV units are built with:

- All-steel construction
- Lockable steel shutters
- Stronger doors and hinges
- Anti-jemmy protection
- Layouts that can combine office and storage.

The goal is simple: provide a professional working base while reducing the risk of theft, vandalism and avoidable disruption.

02 Why this matters

Before choosing a unit, think about what could go wrong if the setup is not secure.

Common construction risks:

- Theft of tools and smaller plant
- Vandalism overnight
- Attempted break-ins
- Damage caused by public footfall
- Delays while replacing stolen items
- Loss of paperwork, drawings or permits
- Insurance complications.

The real cost is rarely just the unit itself. It's the lost time, replacement costs and disruption to programme that hurt most.

03 What the unit needs to do

For smaller contractors, the unit often needs to work hard in a limited footprint.

Ask yourself:

- Do you need a site office for planning meetings, inductions and admin?
- Do you need secure storage for tools and materials?
- Do you need both in one combined solution?
- How many people will use it each day?
- Will client or inspector visits happen on site?

Your answer will determine whether you need:

- Office only
- Storage only
- Split office and store
- Additional welfare support.

04 Is anti-vandal the right choice for your site?

Use this quick checklist before you decide.

AV is usually the right fit if:

- The site is unattended overnight or at weekends
- Tools, drawings or smaller plant are being left on site
- Delays caused by theft would impact programme
- You need office and storage in one footprint
- Client, inspector or HSE visits are likely
- Insurance and security expectations need to be met.

If you are answering yes to two or more of the above, AV is often the safest and most practical choice.

05 What to look for in anti-vandal accommodation

Not all site cabins are suitable for sites that are not always supervised.

Security essentials. Choose a solution with:

- All-steel construction
- Steel window shutters
- Robust door locking systems
- Anti-jemmy protection
- Reinforced hinges
- Secure storage separation where needed.

These features help reduce the risk of opportunistic break-ins when the site is unattended overnight.

Practical essentials you'll also need:

- Desks and workspace
- Heating and lighting
- Power points
- Shelving or racking
- Easy access steps
- Internal layout that supports daily workflow.

The right solution should be secure and practical.

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Think beyond the cabin: day-one readiness

A secure unit alone doesn't create an effective site base. Think about everything needed from day one:

Furniture, lighting, power supply, fencing and barriers, steps and handrails, fire extinguishers, climate control, waste and effluent support if welfare is included.

The fewer suppliers you need to coordinate, the easier it is to get operational quickly.



Key hire decisions to make early

A good hire guide should help you compare the big decisions upfront before you hire.

Office only Vs office + storage



If tools, drawings or laptops are staying on site, a combined office and storage unit often reduces risk and saves space.

Standard cabin Vs anti-vandal



A standard cabin may be suitable for fully supervised sites. If the site is unattended, AV's all-steel construction and shutter protection usually make it the safer long-term choice.

One-off hire cost Vs project cost



The cheapest weekly hire rate is not always the lowest-cost decision. Consider the wider cost of theft, replacement, delay and lost productivity.

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What alternatives might you consider?

Before hiring AV, many contractors will compare a few other routes.



Standard site cabin hire

Suitable where the site is fully supervised and nothing is being left overnight.



Office cabin and separate storage container

A good option if you need a presentable office and a separate secure store, but it can require more footprint and more setup.



Taking tools off-site daily

This may look cheaper, but often creates daily loading time, vehicle risk and lost productivity.

Do you also need welfare facilities?

If your site has a team working on it each day, you may also need to consider welfare requirements such as toilets, wash facilities and changing areas.

HSE guidance typically covers:

- Number of toilets required based on workforce size
- Provision for mixed gender teams
- Access to washing and changing facilities.

These requirements are typically met through dedicated welfare units or integrated site accommodation setups, and a good supplier should be able to guide you on the most suitable approach based on your site, workforce and level of risk.

In simple terms, anti-vandal accommodation is often the most practical choice when you need security, simplicity and one combined footprint.





When might you need a larger site setup?

If your site is larger, secure and workforce-heavy, temporary modular site accommodation may be the better fit.

This is often more appropriate when:

- 10+ people need office or welfare space daily
 - The site office is the main operational hub
 - Client meetings happen regularly on site
 - Comfort and workforce experience matter
 - The project is expected to evolve over several phases.
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In simple terms, AV suits smaller, security-led requirements, while temporary modular site accommodation is better when the site needs to operate like a professional workplace for a larger team.

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What affects the cost of anti-vandal accommodation?

While exact pricing will depend on your site and hire duration, it helps to understand what typically drives cost.

Key cost factors include:

- Unit size and layout
- Office only Vs office + storage
- Length of hire
- Delivery access and crane requirements
- Furniture, power and heating setup
- Fencing, steps and handrails
- Additional welfare or fire safety extras.

The most important thing to weigh up is total project cost, not just weekly hire price.

A slightly higher-cost AV solution can often save far more by reducing theft risk, avoiding delays and protecting site productivity.





What to have ready before requesting a quote

To get the right recommendation quickly, it helps to have:

- Your site postcode
- Required delivery date
- How the unit will be used
- Number of people using it daily
- Whether tools or drawings need secure storage
- Any access restrictions on site
- Power availability.

Having this information ready helps your supplier quote faster and recommend the most suitable setup.

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Questions to ask your supplier

Before you place the order, ask:

- How quickly can this be delivered to my site?
- Can you advise on crane or restricted-access delivery?
- What security features are standard?
- Can the layout include both office and storage?
- What extras are available to make it ready from day one?
- Can it be swapped or expanded if the project changes?

A good supplier should help you choose the right setup for your site requirements, workforce and level of risk, not simply provide a price.





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Common mistakes to avoid before you hire

One of the biggest reasons contractors end up with the wrong setup is rushing straight to price before understanding the real site risk.

Avoid these common mistakes:

- **Choosing a standard cabin for a site that is unattended overnight**
- **Underestimating how much secure storage is needed**
- **Focusing only on weekly hire price instead of total project cost**
- **Forgetting access, power or delivery constraints**
- **Not planning for programme extensions or changing site needs.**

A few minutes spent getting the hire decision right first time can save significant cost, disruption and hassle later.

What good looks like

The right AV solution should help you achieve five things:

Protect the project



Reduce the risk of theft, damage and avoidable delays

Keep the site professional



Create a credible working environment for teams, clients and inspectors

Stay operational



Give your team a secure base for admin, drawings and daily coordination

Minimise hassle



Use one supplier to simplify delivery, setup and support

Adapt if the project changes



Maintain flexibility if programme length or storage needs evolve.

Final thoughts

For smaller contractors, hiring secure anti-vandal site accommodation is not just about bringing a cabin onto site.

It's about protecting the project, keeping control and avoiding mistakes that could cost time, money and reputation.

On sites that are not always supervised, anti-vandal accommodation is often the most practical and professional choice.

