



Sheds, allotments and garages

Places where you store tools, machinery and other valuable equipment offer easy pickings to thieves.

You can reduce the risk of having your property stolen by:

- Gates fences and walls should be kept in good repair to stop intruders getting in. Keep gates locked at all times.
- If you have nowhere else to store valuable equipment, take measures to secure your shed with a good quality padlock, or security system, such as a shed alarm. Consider having lockable steel boxes fitted to the floor to store your tools.
- Mark all removable items with your postcode and house number, register property at www.immobilise.com or www.bikeregister.co.uk
- Strong gates, fences and walls which are kept in good repair can deter intruders from getting to the back and sides of your property.
- Make sure garden fences are high enough to make climbing them difficult. A trellis can be used to add additional height.
- Don't leave ladders and tools lying around in your garden - these could be used to break into your home. High value items such as bicycles and lawn mowers should be shackled together, ideally to the fabric of the building itself.
- Obscure the window of your shed/garage to prevent thieves seeing what you have inside.
- Use signage to let offenders know you have security marked your property and a member of a Watch Scheme.
- Think about using defensive planting around vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes. Examples of these include: Berberis, Rosa Rugisa 'Rubra', Pyracantha, Holly, Hawthorn. Ask your local garden centre for advice.