

# Sheduction



**Garden sheds and garages are not designed to be secure storage areas.**



In most households the tools and garden equipment are kept in the garden shed or garage, neither of these premises were designed as a secure storage area.

Thought should be given to the outward security of the premises. It has long been established that if thieves can gain easy access to the rear of premises, the opportunity to be successful increases. Property that is surrounded by the curtilage of other dwellings tends to be more secure but if access can be gained via communal pathways, open land or roads then extra measures need to be taken.

Securing access by gates, fencing or protective planting that restricts entry to the areas of storage. Good lighting that remains on during hours of darkness may deter thieves from entering the area.

Put all tools away and do not leave them in insecure greenhouses, a spade is a very good lever and can force locks or open windows of a house.

Windows – especially in garden sheds – need extra attention and should be grilled from the inside and the view of the internal area restricted by curtains or opaque window coverings. Good close shackled padlocks (enclosed in box section if possible) and hasps bolted through the door and frame should be fitted, together with metal plates used behind fittings to add strength to the wood. Hinges would benefit from security screws and bolts and on thicker doors hinge bolts.

Tools should all be **postcoded** by a secure method\* serial and model numbers should also be recorded. Hand power tools and portable equipment should not be in open view. Items such as pedal cycles, lawnmowers and boxes with handles should be chained together and secured to a solid structure.

*\*There are many ways of marking property including engraving and heat marking and well as state-of-the-art methods such as Smartwater.*

**Use these security tips to help make your outdoor property more secure**



**For more information on security contact 0845 456 7000 and ask for your local Crime Reduction Unit.**

**Or visit our website on [www.crimereduction.org](http://www.crimereduction.org)**



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**0800 555 111**  
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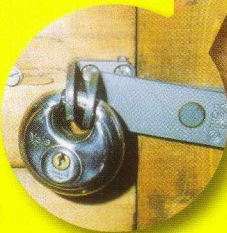
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Replace standard hinges with strap hinges secured by coach bolts or use security screws on existing hinges. To strengthen bolts supplement them with a metal backing plate so bolts cannot be wrenched through.



A hasp & staple fitted with a strong padlock, secured with coach bolts is an effective way of securing a shed door. To strengthen bolts



supplement them with a metal backing plate so bolts cannot be wrenched through.

**Burglary of garden sheds and the theft of gardening equipment is one of the fastest growing crimes in the country.**

**Make no mistake – YOUR property is at risk!**



Fit a window grille and/or frosted window film/curtain to stop a thief seeing if you have anything worth stealing.



**REMEMBER**  
Garden tools are often used to assist the burglar breaking into your house. Ladders, garden spades and forks are particularly helpful to thieves. Lock them away!



Mark your power tools and garden equipment with your postcode and either your house number or first two letters or your house name. Alternatively, permanently mark them by scratching or painting; this will also reduce their value to a thief. You can purchase a property marking kit from your local Crime Reduction Unit.

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