

Police issue crime prevention advice to householders

Police Scotland have issued advice to householders regarding break-ins to garden sheds, garages and thefts from gardens which are common throughout the country.

Many criminals consider this type of crime to be low risk, as they don't have to force entry to your home and many people store bikes, power tools and expensive gardening equipment in their sheds making it very attractive to criminals.



POLICE
SCOTLAND



Make your shed too tough to crack

Many owners only invest in shed security after a break-in.

Follow our tips: -

- Make sure external lighting covers your shed
- Secure windows internally with steel mesh or bars
- Put up net curtains to obscure the view through the windows
- Use a Sold Secure padlock and robust hasp to secure the door
- Fit coach bolts to external door hinges and exposed hasp fittings
- Fit a battery or mains operated burglar alarm
- Consider storing higher value items in a more robustly secured area, for instance the garage or house.

If this is not feasible: -

Install a locking cabinet or cage for high value items and ensure it is anchored.

For pedal cycles use a ground anchor to secure the bike(s) to.

Security mark, etch or paint your postcode onto valuable items.

Photograph items and check your home insurance policy to ensure that these items are covered.

The good news is that there is a lot you can do to outsmart garden thieves. A few simple solutions can make all the difference to the security of your garden.

- Make sure the lock is in good working order. Fit a mortise lock (BS3621:2007) and/or use a good quality closed shackle padlock on your shed door. The hasp should be attached using coach bolts or anti tamper screws rather than basic screws.
- If there are any windows in the garage/shed, fit a grill,

adhesive frosting or put a curtain over the window, so that people cannot see in.

- Fit a shed alarm. These can be bought online for around £10.
- Secure all the equipment including bicycles that you can by padlock and chain, make sure it is attached to the building – a ground anchor is preferable.
- Security mark your bicycles, lawnmowers, toolboxes and garden furniture, by engraving, painting or using a DNA security marker kit and register these. Available online.
- Consider installing a garage defender, which secures the door to the ground.
- Surrounding hedges or trees should be trimmed or cropped so as not to provide cover for thieves.
- Clear your garden all of debris, rubble and tools that may be used to force entry.
- Install security lighting to illuminate your garden.
- Consider topping your fence or wall with a trellis, which will provide an additional barrier and provide support for climbing plants.
- Aggressive plants and shrubs, such as Berberis and Hawthorn can help deter intruders.
- Sign up to local alerts provided by Police at; <https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/>
- If purchasing security products look for items endorsed with the Sold Secure or Secured by Design logo.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously near to your premises please contact the police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of any person or vehicle involved.

Please call 999 if an emergency and urgent police assistance is required or 101 if not urgent to report the matter to the police.

Further advice also available at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-garden-outbuildings/> and www.securedbydesign.com