



Crime prevention advice on **Garden and shed crime**

There is plenty of advice on protecting our homes, but what about the outside of our properties? These areas are also susceptible to criminal activity and anti-social behaviour (anything which causes harassment, alarm or distress).

Tips for dealing with ASB

- Call 101 to report the incident(s) - your Safer Neighbourhood Team will make contact to discuss any issues.
- Gather evidence - CCTV is a great way to identify offenders. If this isn't available a description of offenders and direction of travel will be helpful.
- Discuss issues with your neighbours, colleagues, friends, family and other residents in the community.

Tips to nip garden crime in the bud

- 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. 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.com
- 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 which can also stop items being thrown over.
- 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.

Defensive planting

Think about using defensive planting around vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary wall and drainpipes. Examples include: Berberis, Rosa Rugosa 'Rubra', Pyracantha, Holly, Hawthorn. Ask your local garden centre for advice.

**In an emergency call 999
for non emergencies call 101.**

