

Garden Crime

Break-ins to garden sheds and thefts from gardens are common throughout the country. In fact, many criminals consider this type of crime to be low risk, as they don't have to force entry to your home. Many people store bikes, power tools and expensive gardening equipment in their sheds making it very attractive to criminals.

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.

- 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.
- You should keep valuable items in the house but if they must stay in the shed chain and lock them up. Gold Level Sold Secure D locks are available to buy at St Leonards Police Station for £15.
- Loop a bike lock through the handles of garden forks, spades, etc. Remember, these can be used as tools to force entry to your house.
- Securitymark your bicycles, lawnmowers, toolboxes and garden furniture, by engraving, painting or using a security marker pen.
- Fit an internal wire mesh grille and a adhesive frosting to your shed window.
- Install security lighting to illuminate your garden.
- Fit a shed alarm. These can be bought from some local Police Stations for £10
- 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.

For further advice visit contact your local police station