

IT'S NOT ONLY GREEN FINGERED PEOPLE  
WHO ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR GARDEN

## What can you do?



### Sheds and other small buildings

Many people take a great deal of trouble securing their house and the property within it, whilst leaving valuable property in a shed, which is either unlocked or so old and run down it proves no obstacle to a thief.

**1. Ensure that your shed is in a good condition to stand up to a security test.** If not then take steps to improve it or don't leave valuable items, such as a lawn mower, inside.

**2. Once the fabric of the building is sound you can then improve the physical security:**

- Fit a good lock on the shed door. A little expense can be money well spent and may help with insurance claims later if the worst does happen. The fittings should be bolted through the door of the shed and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. The hasp should have concealed screws.

- The padlock itself should be not less than 2.5 inches in width and made of hardened steel. The lock should have no less than five pins. A closed shackle type will reduce the risk of the lock being forced. Any locksmith or good DIY shop will advise you on the strongest available. If you already have a small padlock, change it now – it could save you time and money in the future.

- Fit any windows with a grille fixed to steel plates inside the shed. Remember, it is no good securing the door if the windows are an easy target. At the very least, consider fitting reinforced glass or impact value acrylic, and a good lock if the window opens.

Fitting a simple, low cost, battery operated shed alarm, or personal alarm, to the door of your shed or garage will warn of any attempted intrusion to your property and will stop a thief in their tracks.

**Much of this advice should also be applied to a garage if you have one.**

### Bicycles

If you leave one or more bicycles in your shed, padlock them to the fabric of the building or together to make them much harder to steal.



### Property

**Gardening tools and furniture are not cheap, what's more they are very saleable items for a thief. Remember that tools stolen from your shed could be used to burgle your house.**

**1. Postcode all property such as lawnmowers, hedge trimmers and garden furniture.** Postcoding can be done with ultra-violet marker pens, engraving, stamping or even paint. Property marking may not stop the items being taken, but it could dissuade a thief if you advertise the fact that your property is coded and it will certainly improve the chances of tracing stolen items and perhaps catching the thief.

**2. Take photographs of any valuable garden ornaments.** If they are stolen, the police can circulate the photo to dealers who can then look out for your property.

**3. Never leave items unattended, especially valuable ones, even if you are just popping into the house –** remember, you may be gone for a minute but they may be gone forever.

**A little bit of effort can save a lot of grief.**