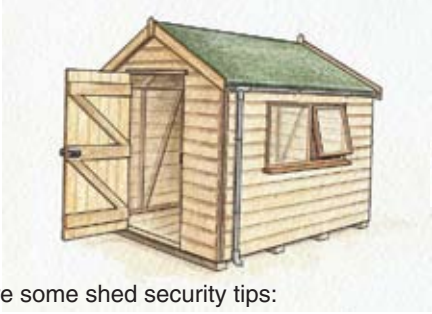


Don't Give Thieves 'Shedloads' of Opportunities!



Here are some shed security tips:

- Keep your shed in good condition
- Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door. Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed
- Fit grilles or mesh to the windows
- Invest in an alarm

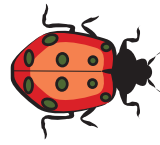
Make sure:

- Large items such as bicycles are chained together. It is much more difficult for a thief to carry away a lot of large heavy items all at once
- Ladders are locked to a secure fixture in the shed or garage so they cannot be used to reach top floor windows of your house

Valuables should be marked with your postcode.

Remember:

Household insurance policies should be checked to ensure they cover garden and shed equipment and whether or not any minimum security standards apply.



Top Tips for a Safer Garden:



Gates, fences and walls should be kept in good repair to stop intruders getting in



Grow prickly plants close to vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes



Don't leave expensive equipment like garden tools, mowers, mountain bikes and power tools in the shed



If you have nowhere else to store valuable equipment, take measures to secure your shed



Don't leave ladders and tools lying around in your garden – these could be used to break into your home



Mark your garden tools and equipment with your postcode



For more garden security tips, visit Police Service of Northern Ireland's website, which also provides crime prevention advice for your home and vehicle.

www.psnl.police.uk

To report garden crime call
0845 600 8000
(Non-Emergency)

TIPS TO NIP GARDEN CRIME IN THE BUD



Easy Pickings?

Garden crime is an unfortunate reality. The theft of Power tools, mowers, garden tools, mountain bikes and golf clubs are just some examples of expensive equipment being stolen by opportunist thieves from insecure sheds.

Crimes of this nature can be prevented by effective garden security from boundary fences and gates to the valuable stored inside your shed.

Follow the tips through the leaflet to find out how you can 'weed out' the garden thieves.



Let There Be Light!

Well positioned external lighting is a great way of keeping intruders at bay and can be purchased from most large DIY stores.



Protecting Your Boundaries



The boundaries of your property are your first line of defence. Ensure that gates, fences and walls are in a good state of repair.

- Make sure rear gardens fences are high enough to make climbing over difficult. A trellis can be added to assist.
- Side gates to be positioned to the front of the house. Increasing natural surveillance to deter intrusion.
- Gates are kept locked at all times.

Defensive Planting: Nature's Way of Beating the Burglar



'Defensive Planting' is the term used to describe the way you can use certain prickly plants, bushes and shrubs to deter burglars.

This green-leafed security measure is not meant to replace, but to compliment other security measures, such as lighting, locks and alarms

Grow Your Own Security: A Few Examples

Berberis

Has sharp spine-like prickles. Reaches 6ft. Good for hedging and growing by walls.



Rosa Rugosa "Rubra"

A flowering shrub with densely prickles stems. Can reach 6ft. Excellent as an impenetrable hedge.



Pyracantha

A vigorous evergreen shrub with white flowers in May, followed by orange or red berries. Great for hedging, growing under windows or around doorways.



Holly

Usually grown as a small tree or large bush. Can reach up to 50ft. Spiny, glossy dark green leaves all year round. Excellent hedging plant.



This list is by no means exhaustive. Hawthorn, Japonica and Acanthus are just a few other examples. Ask for advice at your local garden centre.

Location, Location, Location!

Think about using defensive planting around vulnerable areas such as:

- Windows
- Fences
- Boundary walls
- Drainpipes

