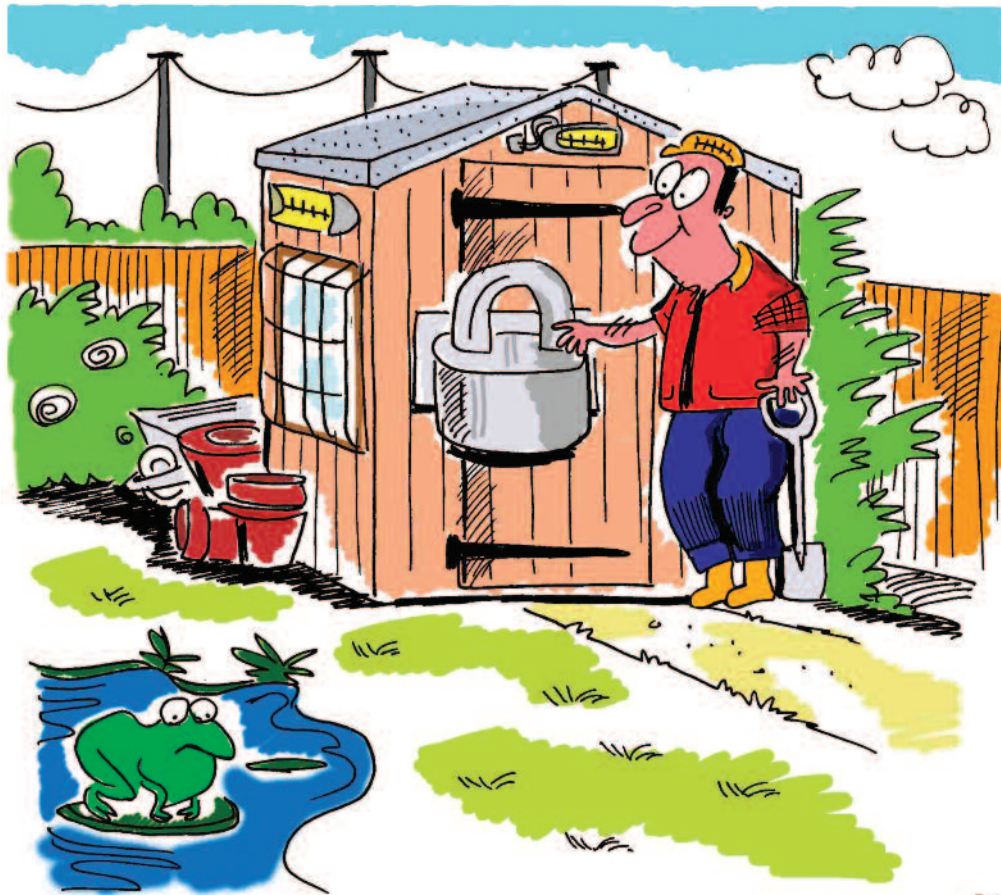


Crime  
reduction  
advice

# Reducing garage, shed and garden crime



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[www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

## Reducing garage, shed and garden crime

**Burglars aren't only interested in the valuables inside your house. Equipment kept in a garage, shed or garden can be just as tempting (and is sometimes used to break into a house). Many houses are securely alarmed but garages and sheds are often left insecure and therefore offer 'easy pickings' for a criminal.**

By following the advice given in this leaflet you could deter potential burglars and help keep your property safe.

### Sheds, garages and outbuildings

- Use good quality fixings and a padlock to secure shed and garage doors.
- To prevent a burglar from unscrewing door hinges, use anti-tamper screws or smear hard setting glue on the screw-heads.
- If possible, lock any windows or fit internal bars or grilles.
- Install either a

mains-powered or battery-powered shed alarm – available from DIY stores.

### Tools and equipment

- Use a forensic coding product to 'property mark' all valuable tools and equipment with your postcode and/or house number. This makes items uniquely identifiable – and less attractive to a thief.
- If possible, secure lawnmowers and other valuable equipment to a shed or garage wall.
- Lock tools away when you aren't using them.



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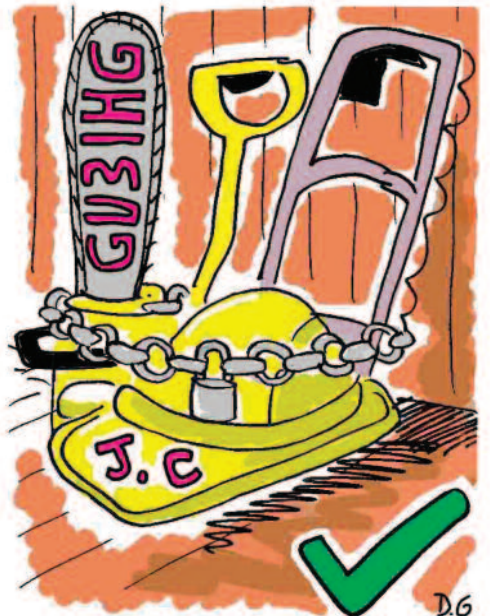
*'Hostile' planting can deter thieves*

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- Register valuable equipment at **www.immobilise.com** or photograph items and take a note of make and model and any serial numbers. This helps with identification if items are stolen.
- If possible, fit a lockable wire-cage for storing expensive items inside your shed.

### In the garden

- Lay crunchy gravel on the approach to your house. Thieves hate drawing attention to themselves by making a noise.
- Your wheelie bin could be used as a climbing aid or even as a means of transporting stolen property. Secure it by padlocking it to a wall bracket or drainpipe or position it away from the accessible windows.
- Securing the perimeter of your garden will help to protect your property. Plant low hedges or install low, good quality fencing – it will make a potential burglar feel exposed and perhaps think twice.
- A good option is trellis fencing which doesn't obstruct visibility and is difficult to climb over.



*Mark valuable tools and secure them in a shed or to a wall*

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### Lighting as a deterrent

Making potential thieves feel exposed when approaching your property can help reduce the risk of a burglary.

- Install low wattage lighting that comes on automatically at dusk and goes off at dawn.
- Locate lights carefully so they don't create dark shadowed areas that could provide hiding places for thieves.
- Using economy light bulbs costs less than 1p per night and you can control the on/off cycle by using a timer.

### Let nature help

Nature can help provide an effective (and attractive) deterrent to anyone thinking of entering your garden.

- Select your plants carefully. Holly and hawthorn are particularly difficult to get through.
- Protect drainpipes with anti-climb paint or a climbing rose to deter access to windows and flat roofs.
- Plant prickly, deciduous shrubs next to walls or fences as an effective barrier for anyone attempting to climb in.

For more crime prevention advice visit [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

### Contacting Surrey Police

For non-emergency calls or to contact your local police officer call **0845 125 2222\*** or **01483 571212**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Always dial **999** in an emergency.

If you have hearing difficulties or speech impairment, our minicom number is **1800** or **01483 539999**.

\* The cost of calls from landlines and mobiles may vary. Surrey Police does not profit from the provision of this number.