

## Allotments

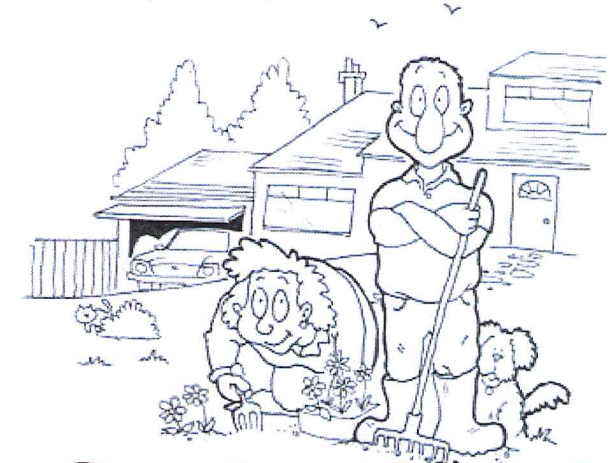
Much of the advice contained in this leaflet can be used to protect allotments from criminals too. But also:

- Get to know your neighbours on the allotment. If they know you, they are more likely to be suspicious if someone else is on your plot.
- Do not leave expensive equipment or tools on the site unattended.
- Contact your local Police to see if there is an Allotment / Neighbourhood Watch Group running, if not consider starting one up.

For more information contact:

Your local **Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)** by ringing **Sussex Police on 101**  
or visit [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

If you have any information regarding garden, shed or garage thefts in your area, contact **Sussex Police on 101** or call **Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111**



# Garden Shed & Garage Security

Tips to prevent Theft & Burglary

**Criminals are not only interested in the property within your house.**

**They can also be tempted by goods and equipment stored outside in garages, sheds and even the garden.**

**Property such as bicycles, lawnmowers and power tools can be just as valuable as televisions, stereos and videos.**

**However, a few simple steps can help keep equipment safe while deterring thieves and burglars.**

## **Garages, sheds and other outbuildings**

**Ensure that the building is in good condition and look to improve its security by:**

- Fixing mesh or bars on the inside of windows.

- Fitting good locks to all doors. Padlocks should be at least 6cm / 2.5 ins wide, hardened steel, have at least 5 pins and be a closed shackle type (reduces risk of being forced).

- Fittings should be bolted through the door and reinforced at the back with a steel plate or washer; hasps should have concealed screws.

- Fitting additional locks to up-and-over garage doors.

- Considering an alarm - either a battery operated alarm or upgraded house alarm which includes the shed and / or garage.

**It is important to remember to use locks at all times, even if you are at home.**

**Always keep keys safe and out of sight.**

## **Property**

- Secure all items that could be easily removed – they could be used to break into your house.

- Security mark property such as lawn mowers, furniture and tools with your postcode and advertise the fact that they are marked. Keep a note of serial / make / model numbers.

- Take photographs of any valuable garden ornaments. If they are stolen, the Police can circulate the photographs to help with identification.

- Ensure that bicycles are security marked and have additional devices to secure them inside the shed or garage.

## **Outdoors**

- Consider installing security lights to both illuminate your garden and deter thieves. Sensors can be bought which switches the lights on when a moving body is detected; also available are sodium tubes that switch on automatically once it becomes dark.



- Keep shrubs, bushes, hedges etc cut back as they can provide a hiding place for thieves.

- Check that all boundary fences, walls and gates are in good repair. A solid barrier is an excellent deterrent to the opportunist thief.

- Ask your neighbour to keep an eye on your garden day and night – and do the same for them.

- Contact the Police immediately if you see anything suspicious.