

Non Dwelling Burglary Self Help



Burglary of garden sheds and theft of garden equipment is one of the fastest growing crimes in the country. Your garden furniture and tools are very saleable items so you must make it as difficult as possible for any would be thief to get to your property.

Gardens are often unattended, have easy access, are concealed from public view and have many escape routes -and these are the sort of places thieves operate.

Walls and Fences:

Your first line of defence against burglars are your perimeter walls and fences. To ensure walls and fences have the maximum effect, follow this advice:



Ensure that all perimeter fences and walls are in good condition, and cannot be easily pushed over.

If they are damaged, repair it as soon as possible, even if it is just a temporary measure.

Don't leave things next to them that could help people climb over., such as ladders or benches.

Put rubbery spikes across the top to increase the difficulty of climbing over. these are usually available from good hardware shops (they are also used to stop cats getting in your garden).

Fit sturdy, secure locks to gates and doors and **ALWAYS USE THEM**. Which is worse, spending a few extra seconds unlocking a side gate or a few days sorting out insurance claims and filing police reports

If you don't want a fence or wall, consider growing plants at the edge that will deter thieves. See the [Plants, Shrubs & Trees section](#).



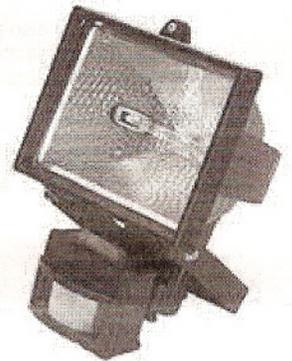
Lights:

Gardens are often dark, and thieves can hide easily and steal what they want. Consider removing this factor by doing the following:

Fit exterior lights that have light sensors or an infra-red sensor that switches the light on for a short time when it detects something in its range - sensors can be bought separately to convert an existing outdoor light into a security one.

Illuminate dark areas of your garden where possible.

Keeping hedges, shrubs and large plants cut back - screens for thieves to work behind should be avoided.



Machinery:



Like any other machinery, garden machines such as lawn mowers and strimmers, are very attractive to thieves. Try to follow the same rules as for any other machinery like a bicycle or car:

Postcode all machinery.

Lock all machinery in a shed of storage box. Lock the item to the shed itself as well if possible.

Never leave equipment unattended, even for a minute - remember it only takes a second for an opportunist to steal.

Keep a note of all machinery including any serial numbers etc.

When using machinery such as lawnmowers and strimmers, you will find it hard to hear anything else. Sneak thieves will be able to hear you doing this and also when you STOP,



giving them the ideal opportunity to steal from you. Make sure that your home and belongings are locked and secure while you are in the garden.

Ornaments:

In Britain we spend millions each year making our gardens look nice for us to sit in and enjoy the little sun we get! Unfortunately, this means that garden ornament theft has become a lucrative crime. Try to follow these tips for your garden ornaments:

Take pictures and make notes of all your ornaments, including any scratches or defects in stone. Wherever possible, secure ornaments to something. Birdbaths, sundials and other large, freestanding items, can be secured onto a metal pole concreted into the ground. Most ornaments are stolen at night, so consider bringing them into the house or locking them in the shed at night. Also consider fitting sensor lights outside.

Plants, shrubs & trees



There are many plants on the market that cost substantial amounts of money. Trees are a typical example of this. A six-seven foot tree can be anything upwards of £40, so a row of freshly planted trees, which can be easily pulled up, is a very attractive item to steal. Plants are very hard to secure until they are well rooted. A good light, with added sensors is a good deterrent. Another attractive item for thieves are hanging baskets and pots. Ready planted hanging baskets can cost upwards of £50 each. Last year, over 50 hanging baskets were stolen by a thief in Wiltshire and sold at car boot sales. Try to lock your baskets to the bracket or the wall and use sensor lights.

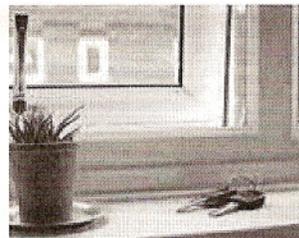
Using plants to deter thieves:

Plants can also play a large part in deterring criminals in the first place. Thorns, large branches and thick growth all help deter criminals. Placing them next to a fence or wall or next to a window or drain pipe make it harder for thieves to gain access and also look attractive. Plants are always best used to compliment existing traditional security methods and not replace them.



Are Your Car Keys Safe ?

"Don't Leave Me Hanging Around"



Many modern cars are now very difficult to steal without the keys. This means that criminals may break in to properties in search of car keys in order to steal the vehicle.

Some criminals may look through the house window, particularly the kitchen area to see if they can see the car keys. They may put things like fishing rods or clothes props with a coat hanger on the end through the letterbox to hook the keys and steal the vehicle.

Follow these simple tips to reduce the risk of you having your vehicle stolen from outside your property.



Don't leave your car keys lying on a hall table, near the front door or anywhere where a criminal could "Go Fishing"

Don't put your car keys in an obvious place but remember, if you do have your car keys attached to your house keys they do need to be within easy reach in case you need to escape from the property in an emergency.

If you have a high value vehicle and you have to park in the driveway, you may want to consider fitting substantial gates or security posts.

You should take other basic security measures to ensure you aren't the victim of a sneak in thief. Make sure doors and windows are closed and locked.

If you have a garage, please park your car in it. Many people with garages use them for storage. Clear them out and use them for the purpose for which they were built.

Remember a thief will look for any opportunity to steal your vehicle and will look for keys left hanging around.



"Don't leave yours hanging around"

1. Young "Door to door" sellers have been active in our area. Please call us immediately if you are verbally abused by such callers or feel threatened. Do not allow them to loiter on your property. Are they perhaps involved in some of our burglaries? The majority do not hold Pedlars licences and should be reported.

A pedlar is a person who travels and trades on foot and goes from town to town or house to house selling goods or offering their skills or handicrafts. They are often referred to as Nottingham knockers or doorknockers and generally sell things such as pictures, dusters, gardening gloves etc.

Any person who acts without a pedlar's certificate commits an offence.

A Pedlar's certificate does not entitle street trading activities.

A pedlar must hold a certificate granted by the Commissioner of Police.

The Certificate is valid for one year only and applies throughout the UK.

They cannot be issued to a person under 17.

A Boss or "Ganger" cannot have others work for him using his own certificate. Each individual requires their own.

Those applying through their local Police station are checked as to their suitability and character.

Currently Wiltshire Certificates look like the one below and have a description of the individual. Plans are in place to include a passport style photo.

Form 144
(December 2001)

NO: 0707 E.

DESCRIPTION

Age 45 yrs (10-11-60)
Height 5'9"
Complexion WHITE
Eyes BROWN
Hair BLACK
Marks on Person TATTOO L/FOREARM

WILTSHIRE CONSTABULARY PEDLAR'S CERTIFICATE

In pursuance of the Pedlar's Acts, 1871 and 1881, I certify that
JOHN SMITH of 1 ORANGE CLOSE SWINDON
in the county of Wiltshire is hereby authorised to act as a Pedlar for a year
from the date of this certificate.

Certified this 18th day of SEPTEMBER 2007.

Signed

for Chief Constable

This Certificate will expire on the 17th day of Sept 2008.

2. Recently our area and Marlborough in general has suffered from a spate of non dwelling burglaries from farms and other remote premises. I would ask you all to encourage your communities to report any suspicious vehicles or persons especially after dark. If at all possible **vehicle registration numbers should be recorded** as this is often the single most important piece of information that leads to apprehension of offenders.

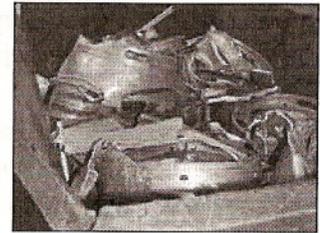


DON'T BECOME A VICTIM !

To reduce the risk of becoming a victim of this crime consider the following security measures.

These are equally applicable to residential and business properties and building sites.

- Make theft more difficult by removing items such as ladders and waste bins which allow access to the roof.
- Store ladders and other easily moved items securely so they cannot be used to gain access to roofs or scaffolding.
- Keep locked all gates and doors which give access to the property.
- Make sure your property is as visible as possible so that anyone removing metal can be clearly seen. Consider cutting back trees and using security lighting.
- Let trusted neighbours know when the site will be empty and ask them to report to police any workmen or vans on site during these times as they may be removing property.
- Consider the installation of CCTV equipment and the use of property marking equipment such as UV pens or SmartWater.



Kind regards.
Paco.
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