

# Don't give thieves shedloads of opportunity



As the evenings become lighter it's the perfect time to get out and about in your garden. It's also a good opportunity to check the security of your home and or sheds/outbuildings.

Here are some helpful tips prevent you from falling victim to burglary:

- When you have finished with your tools, including ladders, make sure you put them away in a secure location and out of sight. Burglars can use this items to gain access to homes or sheds



- Ensure your wheelie bin is not in a position where someone could use it to get over a fence or to access an open window
- Cover garage or shed windows using curtains or frosted glass so contents from within cannot be seen
- Fit a shed or garage alarm if possible
- Permanently mark bikes and power tools with your postcode and register them for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) so that if they're taken police will be able to reunite them with you easily

- Use a 'Sold Secure' close-shackled padlock to secure a hasp and staple fitted with coach bolts or tamper-proof screws on your shed
- We would advise against keeping high-value bicycles and other items in a shed or garage but, if this can't be avoided, chain tools, cycles and other valuable equipment together using a high-security chain and a padlock. Anchor the chain into the wall or floor for extra security and peace of mind
- Get a family member or close friend to keep an eye on your property if you are away.

**Important: If you see anyone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood, or believe a burglary is in progress, call 999.**

If you discover a burglary has taken place, you can report it to us online or by calling 101.