THE FOLLOWING CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE SHOULD HELP YOU TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM THIEVES.

- Secure the access to your shed or garage by locking gates and using obstacles such as trellis or bushes next to walls and fences.
- Visibly mark the contents of your shed make a note of serial numbers and photograph any valuables.
- Use external security lights that are activated by movement
 as a deterrent.
- Ensure shed doors are locked and windows are secure use a strong padlock, such as a closed shackle padlock on the door.
 Use coach bolts or non-return screws to strengthen door hinges and locks or grilles on windows.
- Chain cycles, mowers, ladders and tools to a strong anchorage point.
- Alarm your property small alarms for sheds and garages are available at most DIY stores for less then £20.
- Check that your household policy covers you for theft from your garden or outbuildings. If not make sure you have the right cover.
- A joint community approach can help to reduce crime so why not consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

For further advice and information please contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods team by dialling 101 or visit www.hampshire.police.uk

Use the table below to keep a record of your tools and other property stored in the shed or garage. In case of a break-in, this record will help you to check for missing items. Always report a break-in and loss of property to the police.

Item make and model	Model number	Serial number	Other features

BE SHED SEGURE



Thefts from sheds and outbuildings have been occurring in this area recently.

Many people go to a great deal of trouble to secure their homes and property but at the same time overlook the valuable equipment in sheds, outbuildings and outside storage, which are either unlocked or not fit for purpose - proving no obstacle to a thief.









Many people take a great deal of trouble securing their home and property. However, they'll happily leave valuable garden tools in a shed which is either unlocked or so old and run-down as to prove no obstacle whatsoever to thieves.

To make sure your shed is safe and secure, ask yourself the following questions:



Is the structure in good order?

Are there patches of rot or loose slats? If you have identified a problem, fix it now. Reinforce your shed from the inside to make it more resistant to a break-in. This can be done by fixing additional panels to the internal structure.



Are the doors secure?

Shed doors are notoriously easy to break open so strengthen the door or frame if you can. Outside door hinges should be secured with coach bolts or non-return screws. Use strong padbars and close shackle padlocks.



Are the windows secure?

Consider replacing a glass window with a Perspex or polycarbonate sheet. Use a solid window lock and fit a strong grille or heavy wire mesh. Putting up a net curtain can deter casual viewing.



Does your shed have an alarm?

If not, many companies are now offering cost - effective battery powered alarms to use on sheds and outbuildings.

High burglary rates from sheds indicate that not only are they easy to break into but there is a large market for the stolen contents. With this in mind, consider if the property kept inside would be better stored elsewhere.



Mark your property

Mark valuable items with your house number and postcode using a UV pen or paint. If your property is stolen and it is marked there is a greater chance that you will get it back. You can also have your property engraved. Not only can property marking deter a thief from taking the items but it also acts as a way of tracing the owner should the goods be recovered by the police.



Insurance

Do not assume that your home insurance covers the contents of your shed; you need to check this with your insurance provider. Some items within the shed, such as bikes, may need to be insured separately.



Tools and ladders

Tools can be expensive items to replace. If these cannot be stored in a secure location then chain them together. Padlock the chain to an anchor point or place items in a toughened, lockable steel box secured to the ground. Make sure you keep a note of the contents along with serial numbers etc. You can do this by using the table overleaf.



3ikes

If you are storing a bike within your shed make sure you use a decent 'D' lock and secure it to a solid anchor point.

By securing the environment around your home you can make it much harder for an intruder to break in.



Lighting

Lighting can be an effective crime prevention measure. If your shed is visible from your home, install lighting which can be triggered by movement sensors. If you are concerned that lights may be broken by vandals, secure a wire mesh casing or basket around them.



Protective planting

There is a range of prickly plants available which offer an attractive means of protecting your property. They act as both a visual deterrent and a physical barrier.



Shared shed/garage/allotment areas

Get to know who should have access to these areas. Challenge strangers by simply asking "Can I help you?" This is often enough to deter criminals. Keep a list of contact numbers for neighbouring sheds so if you find a property unsecured you can inform the owner. Consider starting up an allotment watch scheme.



