

Spring Garden Crime

It may not feel like it at the moment but spring is only round the corner and you may be starting to plan to tidy your garden in preparation for the warmer months. Unfortunately statistics show that there is often a spike in shed burglaries in the spring as many people dust off their mowers.

As the weather heats up, opportunist thieves will start to look out for open windows, insecure sheds, gardening tools left out and new bikes purchased at Christmas

Here are a few simple tips to keep your shed and tools safe:

- Clearly security marks all tools with your house number/name and postcode
- When you are finished with your tools lock them away in your shed. A ladder left out can be used to break into your house
- Use a good quality padlock or mortice lock on the door of your shed
- Make sure your windows, hinges and hasp fittings are strong, as this can often be an entry point
- Cover windows so no one can look in to see what you got in your shed
- Fit external motion activated security lighting
- Lock bicycles to a fixed structure
- If your shed has a window - cover it up / obscure the view
- Do not leave house doors and windows open whilst in the garden as an opportunist thief might take advantage whilst you are busy down the garden



You could consider defensive planting to prevent anyone coming into your garden; nature's own way to reduce crime. Criminals do not like climbing through prickly plants and hedges! They know that a small item of ripped clothing or blood can help the police identify them.

Please visit for more home security advice: <http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/homesecurity> or <http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/homesecurity>



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