

- Do not leave expensive equipment or tools on the site unattended.
- Consider forming an Allotment/Neighbourhood watch group.

Sold Secure

Sold Secure is a non-profit making organisation dedicated to reducing the risk of theft by the assessment of security products.

It is administered by the Master Locksmith Association.



Many insurance companies offer discounts for using Sold Secure certified products; in fact, some insurers will insist these products are used.

A product which have been accredited by Sold Secure will bear the Sold Secure mark on its packaging - and will have passed certain minimum requirements in categories including effectiveness.

Sold Secure has a website www.soldsecure.com or can be contacted by telephone on **01327 264687**.



For more Information

Contact your local Crime Reduction Officer by ringing Suffolk Constabulary on 01473 613500.

If you have information about garden, shed or garage thefts in your area, contact Suffolk Police on 01473 613500 or call Crimestoppers on freephone 0800 555 111.

Crime prevention advice is given free without the intention of creating a contract. Neither the Suffolk Constabulary nor the Home Office take responsibility under contract law or any other legislation for the advice given.

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Garden Shed & Garage Security

Tips to prevent theft and 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 close shackled 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 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 switch light 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 neighbours 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.

Allotments

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