

ALLOTMENTS

Unfortunately Allotment sites are often prone to vandalism and theft. They are also difficult to defend against attack. The following tips may help you to improve security on your Allotment site and reduce the opportunities for criminal attacks: -

Boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A thorny hedge around the site can deter intruders. Keep it at a height of about 1 metre to increase natural surveillance opportunities for passers-by.</li> <li>• Palisade or welded mesh fencing is an alternative, but is often expensive to purchase and install.</li> <li>• Gates should be difficult to climb over.</li> <li>• Use strong chains that are resistant to bolt cutters.</li> <li>• Use good quality <b>closed shackle</b> padlocks.</li> <li>• Beware of using barbed or razor wire. You could be held legally responsible for any injuries caused.</li> </ul>
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dusk to dawn lighting or PIR operated lighting can be a useful deterrent. This does of course depend on the availability of a suitable power source.</li> <li>• Make sure that lighting is not a nuisance to neighbours or dazzle drivers.</li> </ul>
Alarms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider using stand-alone battery powered intruder alarms in sheds and other buildings. They can be quite cheap if bought in bulk.</li> <li>• Again, bear in mind that false activations can cause nuisance to neighbours, even though some units reset themselves after 30 seconds.</li> </ul>
CCTV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This depends on a suitable power source. However, bear in mind that it is unlikely to be of any benefit without good lighting and is of little evidential worth if the images are poor or the intruders' faces hidden. The equipment might also be stolen or damaged!</li> <li>• There may also be planning issues to consider. (See the Town and Country Planning Order 1995, Part 33 – Closed Circuit Television Cameras).</li> </ul>
Sheds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in a good quality shed and think about where you position it.</li> <li>• Make sure the shed is firmly anchored to the ground so that it can't be lifted to gain access and also to make it difficult to steal.</li> <li>• If appropriate, install an alarm (see above).</li> <li>• Secure hinges with coach bolts, not screws.</li> <li>• Use good quality <b>closed shackle</b> padlocks.</li> <li>• Wire mesh on the inside of windows can deter attack.</li> <li>• Consider fitting a shed bar across the door.</li> <li>• Consider whether you need to securely cage or anchor equipment inside the shed. (It's not a good idea to store valuable tools or equipment in a shed).</li> </ul>
Secure Containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many Allotment Holders now share a metal cargo type container for on-site storage of tools.</li> <li>• Get some metal plates welded over the padlocks so that they can only be accessed from underneath.</li> <li>• Install battery powered alarms inside the container.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit secure anchor points inside the container.</li> <li>• Use thick cables anchored to the floor and secured with <b>closed shackle</b> padlocks.</li> <li>• Fit metal cage doors inside the outer doors.</li> <li>• Consider reinforcing the sides, back and roof. (Perhaps metal bars or welded mesh type panels welded on the inside?)</li> <li>• Use a battery powered PIR security light inside.</li> <li>• Use robust closed shackle padlocks, to British/European standards.</li> </ul>
Allotment Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak to your local Crime Reduction Officer about starting an Allotment Watch scheme.</li> <li>• Organise your own patrols during vulnerable times, but don't confront suspects or put yourself in danger. Call 999 and let Police deal.</li> <li>• Ask local residents to call Police if they see anything suspicious. If they are not keen to get involved with Police, offer them numbers to contact you on.</li> </ul>
Rental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage as many people as you can to join your group. If the site is well used it will help to deter offenders.</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuisance youths and children are likely to be the main offenders.</li> <li>• Encourage youngsters to have their own allotment. Give them help and encouragement. Get them on your side. They could help to discourage those that they know cause the problems.</li> <li>• Contact local Schools and ask if they can help. Maybe you could get an invite to speak at an Assembly?</li> </ul>
Web-site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a look at web-sites run by Allotment Societies. They often have some good ideas to pass on.</li> </ul>

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