

## **SHEDS AND GARAGES**

The following tips may help to make your **shed/garage** more secure: -

- Make sure the shed is firmly anchored to the ground to prevent thieves lifting it to get in.
- If you can, avoid storing valuable items in a shed or garage. (**Check with your Insurers**).
- Never leave a shed or garage door unlocked, even for a short time.
- Fit strong locks/padlocks to doors and windows. Padlocks should be no less than 2.5 inches wide. A closed-shackle type is preferred.
- All door hinges, pad bars and other fittings should be fitted using appropriate coach bolts, to prevent them being prised off.
- Doors should be solid, to resist being kicked in. (Consider fitting hinge bolts).
- Consider fitting a shed bar across the door. For garages consider fitting a 'defender lock'. If it is an up-and-over door and you can get to it from the inside, fit bolts or padlocks to the runners.
- To delay thieves trying to get hold of more expensive items, store them in a fixed lockable wire cage inside the shed.
- Use a lockable steel box inside, anchored to a strong point, to store tools in. (The tools might be used to burgle your home if an intruder gets hold of them!).
- Use anchor fittings inside to chain cycles and other valuable equipment.
- Fit a mains or battery powered alarm. (If you have a house alarm, consider extending it to the garage and shed).
- Ladders should be securely stored, chained to a strong anchor point.
- Fit metal grilles over windows, or use reinforced glass. Window film can increase the strength of glass.
- Postcode your property, including garden machinery and use a small sign to show that you have done this.
- Record identifying numbers/marks on valuable items. Photograph them in colour to help in identification if they are stolen and recovered. (Include your Garden Ornaments).
- Security lighting can also be effective in deterring intruders.
- Make sure that shrubs and hedges don't provide a secret place for intruders to work.
- Consider joining or starting a Neighbourhood Watch group.

For further advice on security, contact the local Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor on 101 Ext. 300383.