



Autumn Crime Prevention Advice – Shed & Outbuilding Security

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As we move further into the autumn months and the evenings become darker, I would like to share some seasonal crime prevention advice.

Sheds, garages and other outbuildings can often be attractive targets for thieves as they frequently contain valuable items such as bicycles, power tools, lawn mowers and garden equipment. It is advised that shed contents are often worth between £1,500 and £5,000, making them a common target where security is lacking.

Here are some simple steps you can take to improve security:

Secure Doors Properly

- Fit good quality locks and hasps.
- Ensure any fittings are bolted securely and cannot be easily removed from the outside.

Secure Valuable Items

- Chain bicycles, lawn mowers and power tools together and secure them to a fixed point within the shed or outbuilding.
- Consider using a ground anchor or specialist security shackle.

Put Tools Away

- Do not leave garden tools lying around, as they can be used by offenders to gain entry to sheds or even your home. Most burglaries occur at the rear of a property.

Mark Your Property

- Security marking tools and equipment can act as a visible deterrent and assist police in identifying recovered property.

Protect Shed Windows

- Keep valuable items out of sight.
- Consider fitting grilles or mesh internally, replacing glass with more secure materials, or frosting windows where practical.

 **Consider Additional Security** · Battery-powered shed alarms, security lighting and CCTV systems can provide further reassurance and act as effective deterrents.

 **Store Ladders Securely** · Do not leave ladders unsecured outside, where they could be used to gain access to your property.