



# Securing your garden and outbuildings



- Check for weak spots where a thief could get in – a low or weak fence or a back gate with a weak lock.
- Fences at the front of the property should be low to offer good visibility.
- Fit a strong, lockable high gate across any side passage to stop a thief getting to the back of the house where they can work undisturbed.
- Use thorny hedges and plants along boundaries, under ground-floor windows and up drainpipes to make it harder for thieves to gain access.
- Cut back any vegetation that might shield a thief from view and any trees that could give roof access.
- Consider fitting dusk 'til dawn security lights to the outside of your home at the front and back.
- Don't leave ladders or tools outside, or if necessary chain them up, as they could be used to break into your property.
- Photograph valuable tools and unusual garden ornaments.
- Mark your tools with your postcode and house number, or the first two letters of your house name, then place the details on

**[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)**

## Sheds

- Secure your garden shed, especially if you keep valuable items stored inside. Padlocks should be made of hardened steel. Buy the close-shackled variety to prevent hacksaws or bolt croppers being used.
- Shed windows should be screwed shut or have window locks. Consider fitting a metal grille.
- Chain tools, cycles and other valuable equipment together using a high security chain or cable and a padlock. Anchor the chain into the wall or floor.
- Alarms can be extended to garages and sheds. Alternatively, buy a battery-operated audible alarm.

## Garages

- Most standard 'up and over' garage doors are easily overcome by a burglar. You can prevent this by drilling a hole through the channel above the wheels and fitting a padlock. Alternatively, fit a hasp and staple on each side of the door with a padlock or fit a specialist lock.
- If you have a door connecting your garage to your house, ensure the connecting door is secured with a mortice deadlock (BS 3621) and mortice bolts.

**Reporting a crime?** Call 101 or go to [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)



In an emergency, or if the crime is ongoing, call 999