

## **Do your garden tools hibernate in your shed or garage?**

John Oblein, Crime Prevention and Reduction Adviser, Bracknell Police

Summer has ended and the darker days of winter are rapidly approaching, it is time to think about the security of your sheds and garages. Have you ever added up the value of your garden and DIY tools? £700 is the average amount reported stolen in a burglary to a shed.

Residents can take simple precautions to protect themselves.

- Sheds and garages should be kept locked. Even a wooden shed can be made more secure by replacing any screws and using coach bolts that go through the door with the securing nuts on the inside. Garage doors can have extra padlocks or security locks designed for the purpose.
- Items left in sheds and garages such as lawnmowers, ladders, strimmers, garden tools and bicycles should be chained or cabled together to make them difficult to remove. If possible link them to a ground anchor point.
- Buy padlocks that are designed to expose the least metal to attack.
- Simple alarms are available from DIY and garden centres that produce a loud noise and can warn occupants of the house.
- Security mark the property you store. It can be as simple as scratching or burning your postcode and house name or number into them. (a soldering iron will mark wood or plastic) Gloss paint or nail varnish is another alternative.
- Make a record of any serial numbers and keep them safe. You can record your serial numbers confidentially on a national database through the internet. (visit [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) to register)

For more information, contact your local Crime Prevention and Reduction Adviser on 0845 8 505 505.