Securing your garden and outbuildings

Always call 999 if you think a crime is in progress
Call 101 if it’s not an emergency or visit:
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk
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

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

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