



Shed burglaries

We have seen an increase in non-dwelling burglaries over the past month. We are increasing our patrols in Wallingford and the villages. Please follow the advice below to help yourself becoming a victim of this crime:

Many sheds whilst being of good construction fall short on basic security. It is easy to unscrew the ironmongery, steal contents and in some cases replace the screws to make it look as if the shed has not been tampered with. By using tamper proof screws or coach bolts together with a good quality pad bar or hasp and staple and close shackled padlock, the shed owner will make it harder for the would-be thief. It is also a good idea to bond any window glass in, with mastic to prevent easy removal.

- Ensure all tools and equipment is locked away when not in use.
- High-quality locks should be used on doors. Windows can be fitted with a grille or, as a cheaper alternative, chicken wire, to slow a thief down.
- A shed alarm can also be installed.
- Post-coding or indelibly marking all property such as lawnmowers, bikes, and tools using ultra-violet pens, forensic marking such as Selecta DNA or Smartwater or engravers.
- Installing security lighting as a deterrent, and plants such as thorny shrubs to act as a barrier at potential access points.
- If building a shed, putting it where it is most visible to you and neighbours.
- If you see anything suspicious please phone 101 or if you believe a crime is in the process of being committed 999.