



Burglars always look for easy targets
Make sure your home is secure

How safe is your shed?

Why should a thief carry tools if you can supply them?

See overleaf for some useful tips

Stay safe and secure in Harrow



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

Harrow Council

Burglaries to garden sheds and garages

Consider for a moment what you store in your shed or garage and take a look at the lock, the door and even the quality of the building. How many of us even bother to lock the shed door?

These sometimes-flimsy outbuildings are usually full of expensive power tools and gardening equipment including petrol mowers and hedge trimmers worth hundreds of pounds and easily sold on by the thief. Even a few inexpensive tools left in your shed could cost you a small fortune.

Why should a thief carry tools to break into your house when you can supply them?

- 1** Strengthen shed and other outbuilding doors where possible and consider replacing screws to exposed hinges with coach bolts. If a padlock has been fitted strengthen the areas around the hasp and staple and secure them with coach bolts. External hinge screws should be replaced with one-way clutch head screws to prevent them being removed and access gained this way.
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- 2** Inexpensive shed and garage stand-alone alarms are now available from the larger DIY stores and dedicated alarm suppliers. If you currently have an intruder alarm covering your house consider extending the system to your garage or shed.
 - 3** Take a close look at your garage door. Where a separate access door exists a simple method of securing up and over doors from the inside is to drill a hole through the runner and insert a padlock through the hole to prevent the door from being forced up. Numerous purpose made locks are also available to secure the different types of garage door.
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- 4** Don't forget to secure any connecting doors from the garage to your house. Once in the garage the burglar can spend as long as he wishes forcing the door safe in the knowledge that he can't be seen and any noise he makes is muffled. Treat this door as any external door, secure it with at least a BS 3621 mortice deadlock and consider mortice bolts located at the top and bottom of the door. If the door opens outwards it is advised to fit hinge bolts. Always have a fire escape plan in case of emergency.
 - 5** Side access to homes are very important it is advised that you have non climbable gates and fencing to a minimum of 1.8m high fitted with a lock or padlock, as close to the front building line as possible.
 - 6** Lock away your gardening tools; if they are left insecure they could be stolen or used to gain entry to your house.
 - 7** Keep ladders locked away or chained up.
 - 8** Keep garden fences in good repair and consider having trellising on the top.
 - 9** Garage and shed windows can be secured with internal diamond mesh grilles, which provide a good visual deterrent to opportunist burglary.

Supporting you...



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www.met.police.uk

