

## Spring Garden Security Advice Part 2 – Sheds, Garages and Objects

We spoke last month about garden security now we look at the shed, garages and objects within it. As mentioned before controlling access is your first line of defence and you may consider using good old gravel on paths and drives or round statues etc as an audible warning and/or a “Driveway Alert Monitor” (can be found by internet search). Sensitively and effectively placed lighting and CCTV may be considered to help protect outbuildings, ornaments, and statues but these should not be your only thoughts. Don’t forget though motion activated lighting may be triggered by animals and shrubs moving in the wind.

Shed and outbuilding security: If you are installing a new shed try and find a place in view of the house and neighbours. The padlock hasp fittings of a shed should be coach-bolted to the frame and door, strengthen the fitting area with a metal plate inside and out; don’t forget the hinges ensure they cannot be unscrewed. Cheap locks and padlocks are a poor investment; use good quality locks, look for a “Close Shackle” padlock or a key operated mortice lock to at least “Sold Secure” Silver or Gold standard. Protect windows with a wire mesh and fit a curtain or whitewash the windows to prevent prying eyes. NB some of this advice can apply to aviaries, kennels, barns and other buildings of similar nature.

On garage doors consider adding locking bolts to both sides of an “up and over door” or a garage door defender in the ground in front of the door. Don’t forget other doors and windows in the garage secure them as you would in a house. LOCKS ARE A WASTE OF TIME IF YOU DO NOT LOCK THEM.

When storing larger items like motorcycles, cycles, lawn mowers etc consider a fixing set/ground anchor into the concrete floor, a heavy chain and again a good quality padlock to secure it. If the chain or lock is lying across the floor it could provide a surface for it to be smashed against so try and keep it tightly secured. Consider a shed alarm if you do not have one, there are shed alarms available that contact you on the phone when activated such as [www.uwatch.co.uk](http://www.uwatch.co.uk).

Products that are fit for purpose can be found by looking for the "Secured by Design" or "Sold Secure" logos, or on their websites [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) or [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com).

Tips for Statues, ornaments and pots:

- Drill and secure with quality chain/padlock larger pots and ornaments to a secure surface.
- Offenders will not want to break valuable containers- however they may still opt to lift out the plant --this is where the Plant Anchors can help.
- Make the plant pot heavier with a layer of gravel at the bottom.
- Some planters/pots can be marked/post-coded /etched carefully with a small Hobbyist drill or an indelible pen can work sometimes on the base.
- Hanging baskets can be secured with chains or cable ties BUT there is a danger the offender may simply wrench from the fixing point making even greater damage.
- Where possible position statues, ornaments etc in view of the house and neighbours.
- Photograph more unusual ornaments with a scale rule included, and where possible ensure these ornaments are in view of a house and have good lighting. Consider using a property marking product
- Only buy plants/ornaments from a reputable source and report any suspicions to Police/Trading Standards.

For further garden security advice see the following webpages:

[www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/](http://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/)

[www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

[www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com)

[www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=606](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=606)

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