

Shed, Garage Break-ins and Theft of Scrap Metal

In the Lewes District there has been an increase in thefts from sheds and outside storage areas. Sheds and outside storage areas are often overlooked by occupiers when securing their property but often have high value equipment such as power tools, lawnmowers, bicycles and various valuable bric-a-brac and scrap metal. This type of crime is counted as a burglary other than dwelling and is attractive to criminals due to various factors including property that is of high value, difficult to trace and easy to sell on due to demand.

Simple actions such as ensuring that your shed is in good condition, is locked with padlocks and any valuables are either stored elsewhere or marked with anti theft security markings, failing that ensure that serial numbers of your property are recorded.

Various shed alarms are available from the internet or local hardware store.

Crime Prevention Advice:

- The door, doorframe and walls should be sound. Damaged or rotten sections must be replaced.
- Door hinges and pad bars should be secure with threaded coach bolts with back plates or large black washers.
- Use good quality close shackle padlocks as these cannot be easily levered or cut. Remember cheap padlocks will let you down.
- Do you need a window in your shed? If not board up securely.
- Inside the shed chain any tools through their handles to large heavy items.
- If you have nothing heavy fill a bucket with concrete and, using a masonry fixing, chain your tools to this.
- Various shed alarms are available from the internet or local hardware store.
- Look at property marking equipment. Engraving or scratching is the best permanent method and or use a permanent U.V. Security marker pen. Please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team for further information on Property Marking Events in your area.
-

Theft of Diesel

Crime Prevention Advice

Theft of fuel is currently of concern amongst policing and the community across the UK. Fuel is being stolen from vehicles and storage tanks by the use of siphoning equipment that can vary from the basic tube to more sophisticated arrangements involving pumps. Have a look on the internet as many sites sell anti -siphoning devices.

- Secure vehicles in garage where possible
- Consider the use of locking fuel caps
- Re-fuel vehicles just before the planned journey rather than leaving a vehicle fully fuelled overnight
- Park vehicles in areas that are well lit so they can be observed easily
- Use secure parking areas or compounds when vehicles are parked overnight
- Consider the use of alarms. This could be on the vehicles themselves or for the perimeter of the parking/storage area.

- Improve lighting and focus on vulnerable areas
- Fit anti-siphoning devices
- Install or confirm existing CCTV is fit for purpose
- Install cages and/or improve security that surrounds fuel storage tanks
- Consider using 'bundled' fuel tanks if your existing storage facility is not of that type
- Consider the deployment of fuel dyes
- Commercial companies may like to consider fuel cards rather than storing fuel
- Use defensive parking techniques
- Remove portable storage from site (barrels & drums etc) or make them secure
- Consider installing fuel cap alarms - wireless transmitters can be placed inside the screw cap of the fuel tank. A magnetic switch on the device sets off an alarm if the cap is opened or tampered with. More advanced systems can be linked to security lighting or send a text message to the farmer, landowner, householder or their security provider. An isolation switch allows authorised access to the tank for refuelling.

Please can I ask everyone to be vigilant and report immediately any persons or vehicles acting suspicious. Please do try and provide as much information to the call handler such as:

- Type of vehicle – colour, make, model, registration and direction of travel.
- Persons – description - approx age, height, hair colour, clothing worn, tattoos etc

For information on crime prevention look on our Sussex Police website.