



Derwentside Community Safety Partnership Press Release

Storyline: Shed security advice in Derwentside

Householders and keen gardeners in Derwentside are being urged to take action to secure their garden and allotment sheds to protect their equipment from thieves.

With summer fast approaching, Derwentside Community Safety Partnership is urging members of the community to think about the security of their garden equipment and have provided some handy hints for residents.

Community Safety Officer Claire Cook said: "Many people take a great deal of trouble securing their house while at the same time leaving property in a shed which is either unlocked or so old and run down that it would prove no obstacle to a thief.

"During the summer months we see a national increase in the number of thefts from garden sheds and Derwentside is no different, but we all have the power to reduce these thefts."

Handy hints to protect your property:

1. Ensure that your shed is in good condition.
2. Fit a good lock on your shed door. The fitting should be bolted through the door of the shed and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. The hasp should have concealed screws or coach bolts fitted.
3. Fit any shed windows with a grille.
4. Security mark property such as lawnmowers, garden furniture etc.
5. Never leave items unattended even if you are just popping into the house.
6. If you leave items such as pedal cycles in your shed ensure they are security marked and secure them to the superstructure of the building.
7. Install a 'Dusk till Dawn' security light to illuminate your garden. They cost less than a penny a night to run.
8. Form a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to improve the sense of safety and security of the local community in your area. Neighbourhood Watches are now an essential part of Crime Prevention. If you are interested please call Durham Constabulary on 0845 60 60 365 and ask for Neighbourhood Watch.

