



SPRING INTO ACTION AND BEAT THE THIEVES

The Spring often heralds a time when we see an increase in theft of garden equipment and furniture.

Have you taken the necessary steps to reduce your chances of becoming a victim to this type of crime?

By taking some of the following advice you can help protect your garden, and relax this summer.

- Ensure that your garden's fence, walls and gates are in a good state of repair
- Consider installing outside lighting. Low energy dusk to dawn lighting is recommended
- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed so that thieves cannot use them to hide and work behind
- Consider having 'prickly' plants, such as Berberis, in appropriate places to act as a physical barrier
- If you have a shed or garage, check it is in good condition, with suitable locks, before leaving expensive items in it
- All valuable property should be marked (PREFERABLY VISIBLY MARKED) with your postcode and house number. Keep a photographic record of valuable items

When you are out in the garden, make sure the house is secure. A large proportion of all burglaries are committed by sneak-in thieves, taking advantage of a door or window open or unlocked. This might be when you go to hang out washing, or when you are in a different room in the house.

- A sneak-in burglar can be in and out of your house in seconds
- Keep all doors locked and windows secure even when you are in
- Keep items such as handbags, wallets and keys away from places where they are clearly visible from outside

Also be aware that burglaries sometimes occur simply to steal car keys.

- Never leave keys in locks, or where they are visible from outside. Put them somewhere safe and out of sight, but where you can access them easily
- If you have a garage, put the car in it

For further advice, you can contact your Crime Reduction Officers on Huddersfield 436839, or visit www.westyorkshire.police.uk