

**SAFER**

**SHEDS**

**NORTH**

**LINCOLNSHIRE**



# Seven easy steps to make your shed more secure and help prevent loss of valuable items.

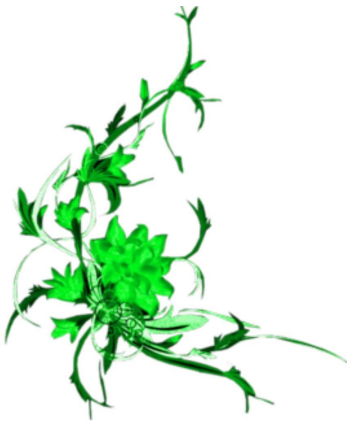
## 1. Fit a hasp-and-staple

A hasp and staple can be fitted to most wooden sheds and is an inexpensive way to secure your shed. Used in conjunction with coach bolts (see tip no.2) and a closed shackle padlock, this could prevent the hasp and staple being levered off or the padlock being cut off.

Hasp & Staple



Closed Shackle



Open Shackle



## 2. Replace screws with coach bolts

The screws used on both the hinge and lock sides of the shed allow a burglar with a screwdriver to remove the hinges in seconds or lever off the lock. By replacing screws with coach bolts (mushroom-headed bolts) and installing a wide washer as illustrated below both these weaknesses could be reduced.



## 3. Board up windows

Weakly fitted single glazed windows provide easy points of access. These windows should be boarded up with a solid wire mesh grill, secured in place with coach bolts.

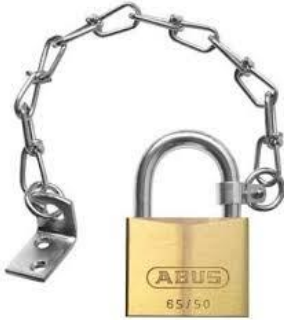
## 4. Replace or repair damaged or weak shed panels

Care should be taken to repair or reinforce any sections of shed panels which are loose, warped or rotten.

## 5. Chain garden tools together and use an anchor point

Upgrading the security of a wooden shed in line with the above recommendations will not prevent a motivated burglar from eventually gaining entry. For this reason it would be wise to reduce the ease at which burglars can remove items. Consideration should be given to chaining garden tools together using a chain and closed shackle lock as specified in Tip No.1. The items could be further secured with the use of a ground anchor. Ideally this would be fixed into a concrete base dug under the wooden floorboards of the shed.

Less desirable. But easier to install, would be the addition of a heavy paving slab positioned inside the shed onto which an anchor point could be added.



## 6. Property mark tools with your postcode and house number

If you have to leave any tools in your shed it is advisable that you property mark them for extra security. Most tools that are taken are re-sold, property marking with your postcode and house number will link the handlers back to the burglary. This will also allow the recovered items to be returned to their rightful owners.



Alternatively you could use a forensic property marking system. This is a marking system that allows you to add an invisible identity mark. Each solution contains a unique code which is registered to a single address. The marking shows up under UV light and the Police actively look for items marked with this solution. If property is identified it can be returned to the registered owner. In order to maintain a clear evidence trail it is important that people do not share this product.

Log your property on a free website called IMMOBILISE if it is stolen you can indicate this on the website and the details of your stolen goods will then be visible to the police so when they recover goods it makes it easier to return them to their owners.

## Hinges Explained

### Strap hinges

The basic shed door hinge is the T or strap hinge. However the screw heads are easily accessible on the outside, so if anyone is determined to get in they can just take the screws out and lift the door off. Security can be improved by using clutch head or star drive screws.



### Security hinges

An improvement on the basic strap hinge is the security hinge. This has larger holes to accommodate dome headed bolts. The bolts fasten through the door ledger on one side and into the door frame on the other. This is the most secure way to attach the hinges of an unframed door.



### **Concealed hinges**

The next step up in security is to use a fully framed door. By using concealed hinges the problem of being able to undo the screws or bolts is overcome.





## Useful Contact Numbers

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)



Humberside Police

101

[www.humberside.police.uk](http://www.humberside.police.uk)



North Lincolnshire Safer Neighbourhoods

[www.saferneighbourhoods.net](http://www.saferneighbourhoods.net)

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