



**HARROGATE & DISTRICT  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**  
Helping to protect over 10,000 homes

## **Garages, Garden Sheds and Outbuildings**

Every year, as the clocks change and spring is in the air, we always see an increase in burglaries of garden sheds, garages and out buildings.

Nowadays we all have so many possessions and not enough room to store them. As well as the gardening tools and equipment, we store DIY tools and other electrical items, family bicycles, freezers full of food and in some cases the family wine store.

The majority of these outbuildings are only designed or intended to store items of low value and they were never intended to store the expensive items that many families keep in them.

Therefore, householders need to look at the security of their outside storage and do some work on upgrading and improving the often flimsy security fitted by the suppliers. Hinges, pad-bars and padbolts are usually secured with simple wood screws. These are easily removed or forced. Some of the screws should be removed and replaced by dome headed coach bolts, which pass right through the door or doorpost and are bolted on the inside.

A good quality close shackled padlock should be fitted and not the usual £5 locks that are commonly used. A good enough padlock should cost tens of pounds.

A metal grill over the inside of the thin glass or Perspex window, will improve a weak spot.

Finally should you be storing valuable items in a garden shed?

Similarly garage doors should have a heavy duty lock fitted or any one of a number of specialist locking systems designed to improve security of garages. The standard security of an average up and over garage door is of poor quality and easily overcome, if indeed it is locked at all.

Attention should be paid to garage windows and any side doors. Consideration should be given to having locked cabinets and cupboards in sheds or garages to further improve the security.

There are some good battery powered stand alone alarm systems available and they are a useful addition.