



***This guide is for tenant information only. South Swindon Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any loss by accident, fire, theft or damage of any personal property that is left unattended on the allotment site. Any items that are left on any property managed by South Swindon Parish Council are done so entirely at the owner's risk. Any theft and damage incidents should be reported to Wiltshire Police on 0845 408 7000.***

Metal sheds are more of a deterrent to thieves as they are harder to break into than the more traditional shed. Wooden sheds are notoriously easy to break into because their construction is usually lightweight. Using the following precautions could hinder any opportunist thief:

- Fix hinges with anti-tamper screws, one screw minimum on each side of every fitting. Other screw heads can be lightly drilled to avoid being easily removed.
- If hinge pins are used, one needs to be contrasting to prevent the door being lifted.
- Hasps should be installed to cover screw heads when closed by the padlock.
- Coach bolts can be used instead of screws with exposed drive slots.
- A bolt receiver plate (the fitting into which the bolt slides) needs to be as strong as the rest of the bolt to resist leverage by screwdrivers favoured by intruders. Use coach bolts if necessary.
- Use forensic marking fluid to mark valuables. Each owner should have their own unique kit to mark both their allotment tools and property at home.
- Install a battery powered shed alarm with PIR sensing and window vibrating alarms and a shed CCTV camera.
- Secure cables to fasten down tools.

**A battery powered shed alarm can be effective if there are neighbouring houses to hear it. It may be the second or third alarm that results in a call to the police.**

**All tools should be locked away or removed off the allotment site, tools left lying around can be used by thieves to break into neighbouring sheds and residential properties.**

