

3 STEP PROTECT



Securing your outside

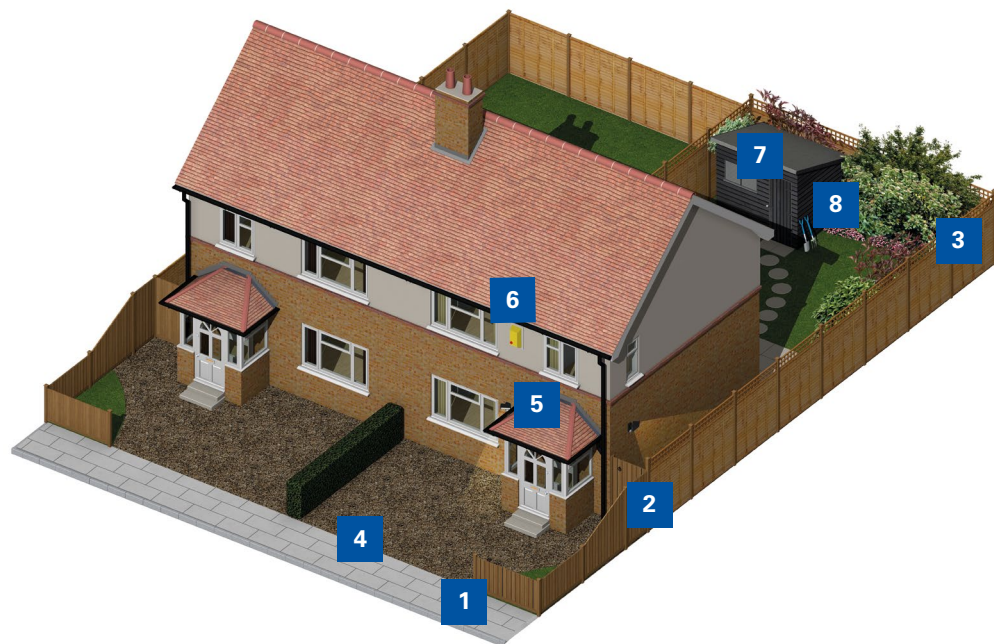
Securing the outside of your property not only keeps valuables safe in your shed or garage, but is often the first line of defence against burglars trying to enter through the back of your home.



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

BE SAFE

Recommendations to make your home more secure



- | | |
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| 1 Low front boundary | 5 Dusk till dawn lighting |
| 2 Secure side gate | 6 Intruder alarm system |
| 3 High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting | 7 Secure shed door and window |
| 4 Gravel driveway and path | 8 Never leave tools lying around |

Stay secure in summer

Leaving ground floor windows, doors and patio doors open in the summer can give burglars the perfect opportunity. If you're upstairs or out of the room, even just for a few minutes, close them and help shut burglars out.

Keep them out

- 1** Keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under 1 metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.
- 2** Keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.
- 3** Keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (at least 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants such as those on page 4 to make it harder for burglars to climb over.
- 4** Gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.
- 5** Install an outside dusk till dawn light so that intruders can't approach without being seen.
- 6** Install a burglar alarm system from a National Security Inspectorate or Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board member company.
- 7** Always keep your shed locked and secured; the shed should be firmly anchored down to stop it being lifted. Sheds are often used to store power tools and bicycles.
- 8** Never leave tools lying around as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home.

Extra steps you can take

- Consider buying a shed alarm. These are usually quite cheap but still effective.
- Add an extra layer of protection to shed windows with laminate sheets of plastic security film or internal metal grills.
- Contact your local planning office to find out how high your rear fence can be.

Create a natural defence against burglary

Planting particular shrubs (in their mature or semi mature form) along garden walls and fences can make it harder for burglars to access your property or put them off completely. To maximise this effect plant them close to each other.

We recommend planting any of the following:



Berberis



Crataegus



Chaenomeles



Elaeagnus



Ilex



Mahonia



Osmanthus



Pyracantha



Ribes



Robinia



Climbing roses



**Ligustrum
(privet),
or laurel**



**Forget
Poncirus**



Aralia



Colletia



Maclura



**Smilax and
Zanthoxylum**

Live in a ground floor flat or share a communal garden?

You can still make use of these tips by planting in front of ground floor windows to prevent easy access.

For more advice visit www.met.police.uk/burglary
To report crime visit www.met.police.uk or call 101.
In an emergency always dial 999.