



Don't let burglars put a Dampener on Spring

Spring is here and many people are making the most of the weather and tackling work in the garden.

As the sun shines, Essex Police is keen to make sure potential burglars don't put a dampner on things by breaking into homes using tools that have been left outside.

Spades and other gardening tools could be picked up and used by to break windows or locks. Ladders that are not put away in a shed or garage can make it easy for people to climb onto roofs or windows.

The advice comes after two burglaries and a series of attempted break ins where tools have been used to try and break open locks or smash windows.

Detective Inspector Andy Harvey said: "We do not want to alarm people but now the days are longer and the weather is getting better it is more likely that gardening or DIY tools may be left outside. Being a victim of burglary is very distressing and we would urge people to follow some simple steps to help protect their homes."

The advice includes:

- Prevent intruders from getting to the back and sides of your home by installing strong fencing or gates
- Check for weak spots where a thief could get into your garden, for example, a low or sagging fence
- Put tools and ladders away at night, preferably in a locked shed or garage
- A thorny hedge at the boundary of your property can put thieves off but make sure passers-by can still see your home so a burglar can't work without being seen
- Burglars don't like gravel as its noisy to walk on
- Don't put pergolas, gazebos or other garden buildings too near the house as it can help thieves reach upper windows
- Close and lock windows and doors

You can find more advice in the [Be Safe](#) section of our website - www.essex.police.uk