

# Garage and Shed Burglary Prevention

## 2<sup>nd</sup> District

The 2<sup>nd</sup> District is experiencing garage and shed thefts/burglaries, therefore I want to provide some crime prevention techniques that should be utilized if you have a garage (attached or detached) or a shed.

I want to remind people to think about the security of their shed or garage (attached and detached) and of the property they keep inside it, by locking your shed and/or garage and making sure it's contents are properly marked will help to deter thieves.

There are a number of measures you can take to improve your security:

- Fit a good quality lock to all shed and garage doors.
- Lock windows and cover them to stop thieves seeing the contents inside.
- Mark valuable property, including lawnmowers, power tools and bikes with your driver license number and state abbreviation and get your bicycles registered with Montgomery County Police:  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/police/enterbicycle.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/police/enterbicycle.asp)
- Secure items such as lawnmowers and bicycles to a solid fixed point or together, using a good quality chain and padlock.
- Make sure that fences and gates to your property are secure and always close them.

### Garage/Shed crime prevention:

If the garage door rolls on a track, a hole should be drilled in the track so the lock can be utilized as a brace. Steel pins can also be used.

Electronic garage door openers with automatic locking devices offers good security.

The door leading from the garage to the house should be a solid wood core door and should have a good quality deadbolt lock. This door is another favored access point for burglars because it offers concealment and access to your tools.

**Keep your garage, and any other doors leading from the garage to the house, closed and locked - whether you are home or not.**

Darkness is the perfect cover for burglars – the effective and economic answer is to install outside lighting, which comes on only when people are present.

Lock or permanently fix windows shut and cover them, perhaps with an old curtain, so no one can see what is kept inside.

Consider storing more expensive electrical goods indoors or in a more secure building such as a brick-built structure.

If your vehicle is parked outside, bring the remote to the garage inside.

**Remember to report all suspicious activity to Police call: 911 or non-emergency 301-279-8000.**

Montgomery County Police offers free home security assessments by appointment. Please call 240-876-1277 to schedule your appointment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. If you have any questions, please contact Officer Dana Stroman, Community Services Officer- 2<sup>nd</sup> District.