TOOL/STORAGE SHED LARCENY PREVENTION

➔ **HOW HENRICO POLICE CAN HELP YOU AVOID BEING A VICTIM TO THIS CRIME**

Mark Tools and Equipment

- Mark your tools and equipment with an engraver, die stamp;
- Use a unique identifier for marking your tools such as:
    - Initials and 3-4 numbers of your choice. (Do not use social security numbers or license numbers as identifiers);
- Mark tools with fluorescent paint for easy identification.

Inventory Tools and Equipment

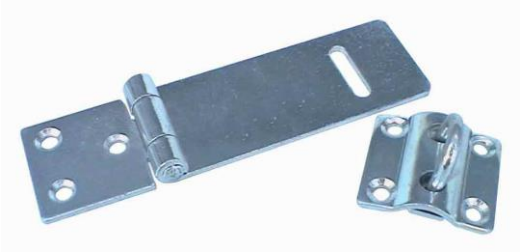
- Keep written records of your tools and equipment.
- Take photographs of your tools and equipment and keep them with the written records.
- Take digital photos and keep information in a computer spreadsheet program.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHEN RECORDING YOUR SHED ITEMS:

- Item name and brand
- Date and place of purchase
- Value
- Model number
- Serial number
- Your unique identifier number (mentioned previously)
- Where your unique identifier is placed on each tool
- Other identifiers (dents, scratches, paint, etc.)

Update your inventory on a regular basis. Add new tools and equipment as you purchase them and remove old items as you dispose them.

What you can do



- Use heavy-duty padlocks with shrouded and hardened shackles to guard against bolt cutters.
- Use heavy-duty locks or padlocks that cannot be easily picked or that have keys which cannot be duplicated.
- Use heavy-duty hasps on sheds, etc., and install with hinge pins hidden or located on the inside of the door.
- Install and use security lighting.
- Never leave your shed unattended or shed doors open or unlocked — even when you are at home. (This keeps potential criminals from seeing the valuable items that are stored in your shed.)

If theft occurs

- Do not touch anything!
- Call the police immediately to report the theft regardless of the items' values ...
- **Non-emergency: (804) 501-5000** - if theft has already occurred, or
- **Emergency: 911** - if theft is in progress.
- Develop a list of the items taken and include full details.

Ask family members and neighbours if they have seen anything suspicious and report that information to the police.

(Information updated March 2026)