

INFORMATION FROM ESSEX POLICE REGARDING THE SECURITY OF GARDEN ORNAMENTS ETC.

- Where possible lock and restrict access to driveways.
- Consider using gravel on the driveway as an audible warning.
- Use a "Driveway alert monitor" (can be found by internet search).
- Use commercially available "plant anchors" into something solid.
- Drill and secure with quality chain/padlock for larger pots and ornaments.
- Offenders will not want to break valuable containers, however, they may still opt to lift out the plant - this is where the plant anchors come in.
- Photograph specimen plants, pots and ornaments with a scale rule included to assist with possible recovery.
- Make the plant container heavier with a layer of sand/gravel/rubble at the bottom.
- Some planters/pots/ornaments can be security marked/post coded/carefully etched with a small drill or a marking product such as Selecta DNA or Smartwater etc.
- Hanging baskets can be secured with chains BUT there is a danger that the offender may simply wrench them from the fixing point thereby creating even greater damage.
- Wherever possible site ornaments in view of a dwelling and have good lighting.
- Only buy plants/ornaments from a reputable source and report any suspicions to Essex Police or Trading Standards.
- Encourage the culture of challenge and reporting suspicious vehicles/persons immediately direct to the Police, (999 in an emergency or 0300 333 4444 after the event).

Information correct at July 2012.