

# Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

## Guidance Note

### Beach Hut Security



Beach huts are an intrinsic part of our coastal communities and enjoyed by thousands of people every summer. However, when no-one is around they often fall victim to break-ins or vandalism.

Here are a few **DO's** and **DON'Ts** to help you secure your property.

#### **DO's**

- Look after your hut! - If a property looks uncared for it is much more likely to suffer from crime or antisocial behaviour – our experience and statistics back this up so keep your beach hut in good repair for the sake of you and your neighbour.
- Always lock your doors with good quality closed shackle padlocks which should be at least 6cm/2.5 inches wide.
- Make sure the door and frame are robust. Both the door and the frame need to be as robust as you can afford. Hardwood is one of the best materials and the frame should be securely fixed to the surrounding structure with at least four extra-long frame fixings on either side. Coach bolts are more secure than nails or screws in a building of wooden construction. The frame can be further improved by fixing London/Birmingham bars to the frame to prevent the wood splitting around the locks and hinge areas.

**For Further Crime Prevention Advice:-**

**For Norfolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Architectural Liaison Officer (ALO)**

**For Suffolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team**

- Use doors with solid core construction. If not, they may be able to be strengthened with exterior grade plywood or even galvanised sheeting.
- Fix doors securely in frames. Doors should be fixed within frames with robust hinges. Hinges on outward opening doors should be protected with hinge bolts or hinge hooks. If you have a mortice lock, this should comply with BS3621. Ideally two locks will be fitted at one third spacing.
- Fix a solid steel security bar across the door. This should be bolted through the door and reinforced at the back (inside the hut) with a steel plate with matching aligned holes and use concealed screws or coach bolts.
- Security mark any property left inside.
- Look out for each other. Keep an eye out on neighbouring huts and if you see any damage or problems contact your local District Council
- Fix strong solid shutters over any glazed areas. These should be securely fixed and locked in place.

### **DON'TS**

- Don't leave valuables inside. Take them away with you.
- Don't leave combustible or other flammable items inside, such as gas canisters. Take them away with you (including matches).
- Don't leave materials left around the hut that could be used to damage yours or your neighbour's huts.
- Don't leave alcohol inside and if you bring alcohol with you try not to let people see it, in case it leads anyone to want to break in on the off chance that further alcohol has been left on site.

### **Also**

**You could consider fitting an alarm. Solar powered alarms are now available that can react to movement and when triggered can not only emit a loud**

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**warning alarm, but can also send an automated text message to your mobile, informing you that someone has broken in.**

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