



Summer Precautions

Whether relaxing in the garden or attending to external maintenance, hazards are often present, evidenced by the fact that around 300,000 people attend A&E Departments each year following a garden accident.

Summer is also a time for increased theft activity.

General Safety

- Avoid trip hazards such as loose paving slabs, hosepipes and uneven surfaces.
- Ensure that sharp tools are not left unattended and are secured away.
- Lock away any hazardous chemicals such as weed killers and insecticides.
- Identify whether any plants are poisonous and follow appropriate guidance.
- Highly toxic plants should preferably be removed.
- Maintain ladders and step ladders and use them safely

Garden Machinery

- Lawnmowers and other garden machinery must be used and maintained in accordance with the safety instructions issued by the manufacturers'.
- Always use a residual current device (RCD) when operating electrically powered garden equipment and do not use in wet or damp conditions.
- Only use garden machinery when safe to do so. Be aware of your environment and mindful of people in the vicinity.
- Never leave lawnmowers or power tools unattended.
- Never let a child operate garden machinery, even if the child is supervised.

Garden Bonfires

- Always consider alternative disposal methods.
- Bonfires can cause localised air pollution and inconvenience others.
- Ensure that burning is carried out away from buildings, fencing, trees and shrubs.
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, plastics etc.
- Never use petrol, paraffin or other accelerants.
- At all times ensure that the bonfire is properly supervised, with suitable fire extinguishing equipment available, and that the bonfire is damped down before retiring.
- Ensure that vulnerable people and pets are kept clear of the bonfire.
- Always wear appropriate safety equipment.
- Take care when storing and handling petrol.
- By law, petrol in domestic premises must be stored in purpose designed containers up to a maximum of 20 litres in two 10 litre metal containers, and 10 litres in two 5 litre plastic containers.
- Always store petrol containers in a secure garage or shed away from other buildings in a well-ventilated area away from naked flames and live electrical equipment.
- If the storage place forms part of a building, it must be separated by a fire resisting wall and ceiling, and any door openings must be fire resisting and self-closing.
- Always dispense petrol in the open.



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Barbeque Safety

- Follow the manufacturers' safety instructions at all times.
- Check your barbecue is in good condition.
- Never use or take a smouldering or lit barbecue indoors or onto a balcony.
- Only use approved barbecue fuel and fire lighters.
- Never use petrol, paraffin or other accelerants.
- Never leave a barbecue unattended and ensure vulnerable people and pets are kept clear and that the barbecue is extinguished before retiring.
- Allow the barbecue to cool before moving and be sure to empty cold ash onto bare garden soil, never in the dustbin or wheelie bin.
- If using a gas barbecue ensure that gas joints are tightened safely and securely and that controls and valves are turned off before changing the cylinder; this should always be done in open air.
- When cooking is finished turn off the gas cylinder before the barbecue controls, ensuring that no unburned gas remains in the system.
- If a leak in the gas system is suspected, brush soapy water around the joints and watch for bubbles, tighten and repeat the process. If the leak persists, turn off the cylinder and seek specialist advice.

Garden Security

- Protect the boundary and access with fences, walls and lockable gates where possible.
- Consider "defensive planting" in the form of thorny shrubs and trees around vulnerable areas.
- Store all garden machinery and tools in a secured garage, shed or outbuilding; use of a proprietary floor/wall locking system will provide additional security.
- Consider fitting garages, sheds or outbuildings with an intruder alarm.
- Install automatic, external security lighting, ensuring it is positioned so not to be a nuisance to neighbours or road users.
- Visibly and permanently mark garden machinery and other valuable items with your name and post code; a range of security marking products are available.
- Secure garden furniture, ornaments and other valuable items with proprietary ground anchors.
- Ensure ladders are kept in a secure garage or outbuilding, or alternatively chain and padlocked to a wall or strong post and always use on a flat site away from buildings, trees and shrubs.

Pond Safety and Paddling Pools

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