

# Security Advice on protecting your Beach Hut



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Your beach hut is your retreat and your place to relax and get away from it all, but as you cannot be at your hut 24 hours a day, it can make it prone to vandalism or a break-in.

Unfortunately there have been a number of break ins and acts of Criminal Damage to beach huts this year, so in conjunction with Felixstowe Beach Hut Association here are a few **DO's** and **DON'Ts** to help you secure your property.

## DO's

- 1) Do ensure your hut is in a good state of repair, so not to encourage acts of vandalism.
- 2) Do lock your doors with good quality closed shackle padlocks (reducing the risk of it being forced), which should be at least 6cm/2.5 inches wide.
- 3) Do place a solid steel security bar across the door.
- 4) Do make sure that the fittings for the security bar are 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.
- 5) Do place hasp bolts and solid closed shackle padlocks at the top and bottom of the doors. It will even out the security, strengthening the door and, provided the door is properly shut, will assist in preventing the door from warping.
- 6) Do property mark, with your post code and house number, any items you feel you have to leave inside. (It is better not to leave any items)
- 7) Do keep an eye out on neighbouring huts and if you see any damage or problems contact Suffolk Coastal District Council



## DON'TS

- 1) Don't leave valuables inside. Take them away with you.
- 2) Don't leave combustible or other flammable items inside, such as gas canisters. Take them away with you (including matches).
- 3) Don't leave materials left around the hut that could be used to damage it or other properties.
- 4) 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.

**Consider an internal alarm. Solar powered alarms are now available that can react to movement and when triggered can not only emit a loud warning alarm, but can also send an automated text message to your mobile, informing you that someone has broken in.**