

Advantages to Neighborhood Watch

- It's a proactive step. It helps to keep you from becoming a victim
- Protects people when they are at home
- Protects property when they are away
- Helps keep insurance rates down
- Keeps neighborhoods safer for everyone

How to Start

- Form a small group
- Discuss areas of interest or concern
- Discuss needs
- Discuss level of interest
- Partner with police for training, forms, supplies and more
- Contact as many neighbors as possible
- Schedule a meeting
- Draw a map of the neighborhood
- Develop a phone tree
- Develop an email notification tree
- Elect a coordinator and block captains

Keep Up Interest

- Develop interesting training opportunities
- Meet frequently, but not too frequently
- Learn to recognize suspicious persons or activity
- Learn what information is needed by law enforcement
- Learn how to properly report the information to responders
- Schedule free home insurance inspections
- Have pot-luck socials
- Have ice cream or barbecue socials
- Communicate with one another and develop an "Operation Identification" program
- Have a block garage sale
- Have a block clean-up
- Develop a walking or exercise group
- Have a "unwanted goods" exchange
- Set up a child card co-op
- Use your imagination

Helpful Tips to Prevent & Discourage Burglary

- **Lock all doors and windows:** Invest in good locks. Deadbolt locks with long bolts that terminate in a good, solid door frame makes breaking down a door a chore. Also invest in good, solid core doors.
- **Keep shrubs trimmed back:** If windows are visible, it is easier for neighbors or police to spot a broken window. Consider “thorny” shrubs, as they can be deterrents, as it can be painful to access windows over them.
- **Keep your garage door closed at all times:** Not only does this prevent items from being stolen, it also takes away another sign that you’re home or away.
- **Store vehicles in your garage:** Vehicles in garages make it harder for crooks to determine if you are away and prevents them from burglarizing your vehicle.
- **Get to know your neighbors:** Knowing your neighbors is a great crime deterrent. Extra sets of eyes keeping watch on your property, reporting suspicious activity, and helping keep you safe. Be sure to return the favor and keep an eye on their home too.
- **Consider an alarm system:** Most insurance companies offer discounts for alarms, and some system also monitor fire.
- **Watch what you throw out in the trash:** If you’ve purchased a new TV, computer, or other expensive item, consider another way to dispose of the box. Will the store dispose of it in their trash? Can you cut it up to put inside garbage bags?
- **Use light timers when you are gone for long period:** Light timers give the appearance of being lived in. Leave a radio or TV on at a conversational volume level. Have a neighbor pick up your paper and mail and accept packages. Have a neighbor remove door hangers and other advertisements that pile up at your door.
- **Consider a safety deposit box for jewelry:** This can be especially useful for expensive jewelry or jewelry that you do not wear often.
- **Turn on exterior lights after dark:** Use the same schedule for lighting when you are away that you do when you are at home. Consider timers for exterior lights.
- **Think like a burglar:** Ask yourself, “What would a burglar find when he looks at my house that would be inviting?” Remember that you are an important partner in the fight against crime.