
Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)

A multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design. CPTED strategies rely on the ability to influence an offender's decisions before the criminal acts by affecting the built, social and administrative environment.

Strategies for the built environment

- ◆ **Natural surveillance** - Increases the threat of apprehension by taking steps to increase the perception that people can be seen.
- ◆ **Natural access control** - Limits the opportunity for crime by taking steps to clearly differentiate between public space and private space.
- ◆ **Natural territorial reinforcement** - promotes social control through increased definition of space and improved proprietary concern.
- ◆ **Maintenance** - Well maintained premises and landscaping communicates an alert and active presence occupying the space and is an expression of ownership of property.



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HOME SECURITY



Is your home really safe once you leave? The majority of home and apartment burglaries occur during the daytime when most people are away at work or school. This brochure contains some general home security tips to help reduce the chance of a burglary.

To determine how secure your home is, think like a thief. From the outside of your home, consider how difficult it would be to break in.

- Is your door metal or solid wood construction?
- Are all doorframes strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?
- Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance doorway?
- Can the front entrance be observed from street or public areas?
- Are exterior entrances or front entrance lighted with a minimum 40-watt bulb?
- Do doorways and windows have a screen or storm door with adequate locks?
- Do any upper floor windows open onto areas, such as roofs, that offer special risk of burglary?
- Are exterior areas of doors and windows free from concealing structure or landscaping?
- Is the outside utility entrance to the garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance?
- Do you leave windows open at night or when you're away?
- Is your garage door left unlocked, even for short periods?

TARGET HARDENING - The concept of "target hardening" is that a strong, visible defense will deter or delay an attack.

DOORS: Since most intruders enter a residence by physically compromising a door or frame, strong doors and frames are essential to your security. Lock your doors at all times, even if you are at home.

WINDOWS: Don't make it easy for a burglar by leaving your windows unlocked. Locks that come with the windows are not effective. Purchase a sturdy lock and keep it locked.



HOUSE NUMBERS: Place your house number on the front of your house. Use 6-inch high letters of reflective material or black on white. You may also consider placing your house number on the back of your home.

STREETLIGHTS: If your streetlights are not working, report it to the proper agency.

LIGHTING: Light the outside of your house. Exterior lights are important, especially near doors, windows and in carports. Criminals do not like light and will avoid it.

LANDSCAPING: Keep the shrubbery trimmed. Thick, tall shrubbery provides cover for a burglar and lets him work undetected.

DECALS & STICKERS: Mark your valuable possessions and post "Operation ID" decals on your windows. These, and other warning stickers, are deterrents to burglars.

MAILBOX: Your mailbox should be located so it can be seen and observed by your neighbors. Put only your street address on the box, not your name.

WIDE ANGLE VIEWERS: Put a peephole in your front door and USE IT. Never open your door to a stranger. Make sure the eye viewer gives you at least 180 degrees of visibility.

GARAGE DOOR: Keep it closed and locked. An open garage is an invitation for a burglar.

GARAGE WINDOWS: Garage windows should be locked and covered with shades or blinds so a burglar can't look inside for signs of someone being home.

STORAGE SHEDS: Storage sheds or outside buildings should be securely locked. Any tools or equipment which could help a burglar break into your house should be locked in the shed or in a locked garage.

SLIDING DOORS: Secure your patio doors, too. A broomstick, dowel, or finger-operated lock can help. A pin-type lock or a key is better. Two or three screws in the overhead track will reduce the chance of lifting the door out of the track.

FENCES: Fences make it harder for a burglar to carry away large items, but are only effective if the gates are locked. Gates should always be locked.

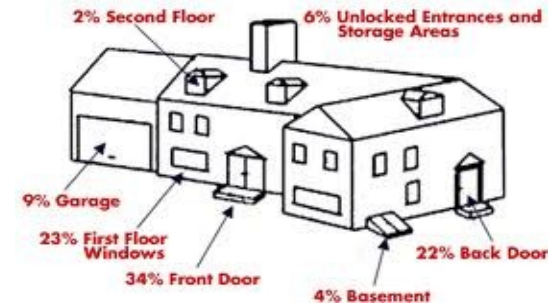
WARNING SIGNS: A sign indicating an alarm system has been installed, or other warning signs can be a good deterrent. To be effective signs must be of sufficient size to attract attention and be in a conspicuous place.



PERIMETER LIGHTING: All sides of your home should be protected by security lighting. Attractive, low-wattage lighting may be an effective way to keep intruders from getting interested.

ROOF OPENINGS: All skylights, roof vent openings or any other potential ceiling entrance should be reinforced with metal bars or heavy screens.

How They Break In:



There's More You Can Do

- Join a Neighborhood Watch group. If one doesn't exist, you can start one with help from local law enforcement.
- Never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates you may be away from home. Rather than saying "I'm not home right now," say, "I'm not available right now."
- Work with neighbors and local government to organize community clean-ups. The cleaner your neighborhood, the less attractive it is to criminals.
- Be suspicious of strangers who appear out of place, call 911 to report them.
- Be aware of telephone calls with no apparent purpose and hang-up calls. This can be a ploy used by criminals to identify target homes.

**Lock it up!
Light it up!
Put it away!**