

CPTED STRATEGIES FOR THE HOME

Residential areas are the heart of a community - our homes are where we spend most of our time and should be a place we feel most safe. The guiding principles here are proper maintenance and neighborhood engagement, i.e "know thy neighbor."

Streets and homes should be designed and maintained to encourage interaction between neighbors. Good examples include well-maintained front porches, neat and tidy yards, sidewalks and property lines that are defined by low shrubbery rather than high fences, and adequate lighting.

Consider these tips:

1. Keep your porch light on at night; consider dusk to dawn sensors.
2. Install motion sensor lights along the back and sides of your home to illuminate areas with poor surveillance.
3. Keep lower branches of trees trimmed to a minimum height of 6-8 feet from the ground; shrubs and hedges should be a maximum height of 2-3 feet tall.
4. Remove hedges and trees from within 6 feet of your doorway that provide concealment; trim or remove trees that offer access to upper level windows.
5. Plant "hostile" landscaping in front of lower level windows; thorny plants deter burglars from trying to enter or exit those locations.
6. Keep the lawn cut and edged; keep litter and debris picked up.
7. Maintain your yard to be free of any items that might attract theft.
8. Make the house number clearly visible from the street (3" high / reflective at night).
9. Establish a neighborhood watch group; create an email list to keep neighbors informed.
10. Encourage block parties and gatherings to create more activity in the