

What is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and what can it do to make my home or business more safe?

- CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts. CPTED based strategies emphasize enhancing the perceived risk of detection and apprehension.
- CPTED is based upon the theory that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime, and improve the quality of life. Built environment implementations of CPTED seek to dissuade offenders from committing crimes by manipulating the built environment in which those crimes proceed from or occur. The three most common built environment strategies are natural surveillance, natural access control and natural territorial reinforcement. Natural surveillance and access control strategies limit the opportunity for crime. Territorial reinforcement promotes social control through a variety of measures.
- Recommend trimming bushes to allow a clear view of front door. This allows an Ofc. a clear view of your walkway and front door while driving by.
- Recommend trimming bushes in front of window(s) to the bottom of the window or 3' high maximum. This helps to eliminate potential hiding spots.
- Recommend trimming tree(s) at the bottom up to 6' high. Trimming at or above eye level hinders hiding spots.

RECEIVE FREE EMAIL ALERTS FROM THE RICHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Sign up at www.richlandpolicedept.blogspot.com

This brochure was prepared by the Richland Police Department Crime Prevention Unit

As part our continued effort in:

"Pursuing Innovative Solutions to Issues through a Partnership with the Community."

For more information about crime prevention, please contact the Richland Police Department Crime Prevention Office at 942-7636.

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**HOME SECURITY AND
CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN**



RICHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



MOST CRIMINALS ARE OPPORTUNISTS:

They strike when it is easiest for them!

Here are a few simple steps you can take to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime:

PHYSICAL SECURITY

- Always lock your windows and doors, even when you are home.
- Use a heavy duty deadbolt and strikerplate, installed with 3 inch screws into the wall stud, on every entry door.
- Use a secondary lock on windows and sliding glass doors.
- Install an eye viewer on your front door at a height everyone can use.
- If there is a glass window next to the door, reinforce the glass so it can't be easily broken.
- Use solid core doors for every entrydoor, including the door from the garage into the house.
- Do not keep a spare key "hidden" outside - criminals know the common hiding places.
- Keep your garage doors shut and locked when not in use.

LIGHTING

- Keep entry ways and doorways well lit at night, even while you are home.
- Keep a light on inside your home at night.
- Look at your home from the perspective of a criminal. Are there dark places to hide?

- Be sure your address is visible from the street and well lit.

LANDSCAPING

- Keep landscaping pruned to below 3 feet or above 6 feet to minimize hiding places.
- The more privacy your landscaping gives you, the more privacy it gives criminals.
- Consider planting bushes with thorns in areas to create a natural barrier.

WHILE HOME

- Never allow someone you don't know into your home.
- If someone asks to use your phone and you want to help them, make the call for them or hand them a cordless phone; don't let them inside.
- Never allow an unsolicited or unscheduled repairman or service worker into your home.
- Be cautious of door to door solicitors; ask to see their solicitor's license. The City of Richland requires individuals to be licensed to solicit door to door.
- If a solicitor is aggressive and won't leave, shut the door and call the police, if necessary.

ALARM SYSTEMS

Alarm systems can be an effective burglary prevention tool and can provide peace of mind.

- Use a reputable monitoring company and have a reputable company install to maximize effectiveness and minimize false alarms.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

- Items stored outside such as bikes and tools, should be kept locked.
- Keep gates and sheds locked.
- Record serial numbers of items of value such as firearms, electronics, and tools.
- Keep the serial numbers in a safe place separate from the items.
- Engrave items of value, especially those with no serial number, with your driver's license number so police can return the property to you if it is recovered.
- Store blank checks and credit cards in a safe place.

ON VACATION

- Tell neighbors when you will be gone.
- Stop the newspaper, mail, and other deliveries.
- Have someone check on your home while you are gone.
- Keep lights on inside and out.
- Request a Vacation House Check from the Richland Police Department.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Get to know your neighbors and look out for each other.
- Report suspicious activity to the police immediately.
- Start a neighborhood watch program.



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