

WAYS TO HELP PREVENT CRIME

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Annotation: This article will discuss about practical ways which help us reduce crime. Preventing crime takes each individual person being responsible for their own safety and making wise choices. Those choices can include going out shopping at night to the landscape of your residential property.

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Crime is essentially an act that is punishable by law. It doesn't occur owing to a single cause but is an extremely complex happening that is influenced by the culture of the place in which it takes place. For the same reason, many activities that are deemed illegal in one country are legal in another. A case in point would be alcohol consumption which is illegal in Muslim countries but legal everywhere else. With changes in culture, people's outlook towards what constitutes crime changes too. Owing to this, there can be various causes of crime that change based on the nature of the crime, the time and place of its occurrence, and the like. As a result, criminalization and decriminalization of various phenomena is an ongoing process. These principles can assist you in reducing the opportunity for crime to occur at your home, your place of work or your business. They can be considered for development and implementation by individuals, communities, partners or businesses and act as a check-list to see what steps you may be able to take for your own particular circumstances. It's not a case of having to use all of the 10 Principles at once, you may find using just one of them could help you or it may be a

combination of several of them. When you are looking at using the principles of crime prevention to improve security around your home or business, the best way to approach it is to look at your home or premises as if you were the offender. Identify the weak spots, vulnerable areas and concealment points and prioritize the areas for improvement. Contact our Crime Prevention Officers before you undertake any improvements and they will work with you to ensure that you are taking the best approach possible for your respective circumstances.

We need community members to actively assist us in maintaining a safe and secure campus for all students, faculty, and staff. To do this we suggest the following:

Voice concerns about crime and disorder problems.

Don't wait until crimes occur or problems get out of control. Raise your concerns to an officer.

Get help with personal problems.

If you have a personal problem or are aware of someone with a personal problem that you cannot handle by yourself, you should seek help before the problem gets out of hand and causes further difficulties.

The 5 Principles of Crime Prevention are:

1. Target Hardening

- Making your property harder for an offender to access.

Upgrading the locks on your doors, windows, sheds and outbuildings

- Fitting sash jammers to vulnerable doors and windows
- Using secure passwords to prevent criminals hacking your online accounts

2. Target Removal

Ensuring that a potential target is out of view.

- Not leaving items on view through your windows – i.e. laptops, phones, keys, bags
- Putting your vehicle in the garage if you have one and not leaving valuables on display

- Being cautious about what you post online as it may be used to identify or locate you offline

3. Reducing the Means

Removing items that may help commit an offence.

- Not leaving tools and ladders in the garden and clearing up any rubble/bricks
- Keeping wheelie bins out of reach, as they may be a climbing aid or help transport items

4. Reducing the Payoff

Reducing the profit the criminal can make from the offence.

- Security marking your property
- Marking your property in such a way that others will not want to buy from the thief

5. Access Control

Looking at measures that will control access to a location, a person or object.

- Locking your doors and windows to both your house and your vehicle
- Ensuring that fencing, hedges, walls and other boundary treatments are in a good state of repair

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