

Advice from the experts:

- Keep things simple: stick to the quickest and most obvious route to get things done.
- Get as many people involved as possible: people will often volunteer if asked, and more may come along with each person asked.
- Follow through: keep all promises that are made. If an official promises something, then stay on it and go higher if necessary.
- Say thanks: congratulate each other for any progress made. Taking before and after pictures is a good way of seeing results from your efforts. Be sure to acknowledge officials and other groups that have helped out.
- Build leaders: one volunteer "leader" should not be permanent. One person who is always in control is bad for the group and the leader.



Our nation is built on the strength of its citizens. For more information on Neighborhood Watch go to www.usawatch.org.

- Neighborhood Watch is a group effort and a good way to make use of everyone's unique talents.
- Build links: focus on concerns that local government and officials are working on. Establishing trust can lead to strong partnerships that will help.
- Keep in touch regularly, clearly and in different formats: frequent, concise communication helps people stay informed so that people stay involved.



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Whether you live in a quiet neighborhood, or in a rural town with a stable history, you can still be at risk for facing a crime threat.

Early detection is the best way to prevent the onset of bigger problems. It's a good idea to get into action at the first sign of trouble. A rash of break-ins, people loitering, graffiti and abandoned automobiles are all possible clues that could lead to trouble.

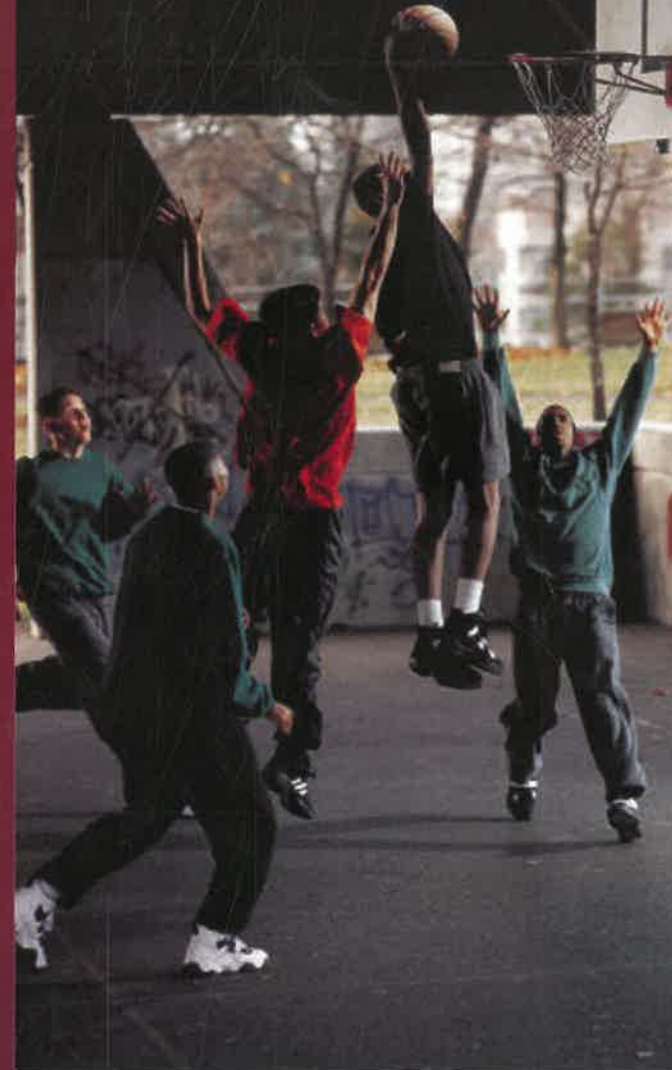
Paying attention to the small problems ahead of time, can save you from having to face larger and more difficult ones down the road.

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late!!

Learn More About

Neighborhood Watch

Definition • Getting Started
Getting Organized



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Neighborhood Watch: Anyone Can Join



Organize, Organize, Organize

Neighborhood Watch, also known as Citizen Crime Watch, is a voluntary program organized by concerned citizens to reduce crime in their communities. Working together with local law enforcement agencies, citizens can learn when and how to report suspicious activities, assist in property identification, conduct home security surveys and implement home security measures and precautions.

Neighborhood Watch meetings offer valuable information that helps neighbors cooperate effectively with one another. It also promotes good security practices, makes more observant and caring neighbors, and boosts cooperation between citizens and law enforcement.

Reluctance and Fear:

Many people are afraid to fight back against crime for fear of retaliation by gangs or other criminals. There are also those that either don't care or think they can't make a difference. However, there are some ways to overcome these kinds of roadblocks.

- Realize there is strength in numbers. An organization of people who join together can show their commitment without having to be singled out.
- Coordinate with local law enforcement on anonymous reporting of crimes.

Getting Started:

If you decide to start a Neighborhood Watch Group consider:

- Talking to your neighbors and friends. Ask for their participation in a small core group to take the first steps in starting a Neighborhood Watch Group.
- Explaining the need and value of a Neighborhood Watch Group.
- Define the boundaries to be organized.

- Meetings can be conducted away from the problem area so that your privacy can be protected.

Any resident of a community can join a Neighborhood Watch, even those who do not own a home can get involved. A Neighborhood Watch can be in an apartment complex, office building or marina.

There are many ways people can come together to help make their communities a safer place to live.

Getting Organized:

Once a group of people decide to start a Neighborhood Watch, they should consider the following:

- Contact local law enforcement officials who can aid in training members

in home security, reporting techniques and criteria on local crime patterns.

- Select a coordinator and block captains who will be responsible for relaying information to members and for organizing meetings.
- Have someone responsible for recruiting new people and keeping current status on new members. Special efforts should be made to involve all people including the elderly, working parents and young people.
- Work with the local law enforcement and government to have Neighborhood Watch signs put up. This can usually be done after at least 50 percent of the households are signed up.

Ask Yourself

Neighbors can report unusual incidents to law enforcement. Always keep emergency numbers handy so you can quickly report any suspicious activity or emergency. When calling be sure to give the reason for the call and the location. Be on the lookout for:

What Can Neighbors Do?

- Someone looking into windows and parked cars
- Unusual noises, screaming or shouting
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle
- Property being taken out of a closed business or house where no one is at home
- Cars, vans, trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination, or without lights