

The 10 Principles of Crime Prevention



The principles overleaf 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 or a combination of them could help you.

When you are looking at using the principles of crime prevention to improve security, the best way to approach it is to look at your home or premises as if you were an offender. Identify the weak spots, vulnerable areas and concealment points and prioritise the areas for improvement. Make use of the Merseyside Police crime prevention advice at www.merseyside.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/



HOMEWATCH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

These schemes help residents to make their neighbourhoods safer, by helping people protect themselves and their property, and to reduce the fear of crime. Working with local policing teams throughout Merseyside, residents living in scheme areas can get free advice on how to spot and report suspicious behaviour and reduce the attractiveness of their homes to the opportunist thief. All participants are encouraged to look out for other scheme members and this really does enhance community spirit whilst driving down crime and disorder. For more information including how to start a scheme, please visit:

www.ourwatch.org.uk/merseyside or scan the QR Code



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.

- Put your vehicle in the garage if you have one
- Don't leave valuables on display
- Be cautious about online activity - 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
- Keep wheelie bins out of reach: they may be a climbing aid or help transport items
- Making sure that bricks and rubble are cleared up

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
- Not buying property you believe or suspect to be stolen

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 fences/hedges/boundary walls are in a good state of repair
- Putting security systems in place at commercial sites (barriers, guards, ID cards)

6. SURVEILLANCE

Improving surveillance around homes, businesses or public places to deter criminals.

- Consider adding CCTV to a commercial site or public place
- Establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your street
- Remove high hedges/fences surrounding your home that may allow an offender to work unseen

7. ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Ensuring your property and wider community looks cared for.

- Ensuring that graffiti and domestic/commercial waste is cleared up
- Reporting issues with fly-tipping or broken street lights to the relevant authority
- Working with the police and local authority to close a footpath

8. RULE SETTING

Change habits by setting rules and positioning signage in appropriate locations.

- Introduce a rule that the last person entering/leaving should lock the door and remove the keys
- Informing visitors to commercial sites that they must report to reception on arrival
- Informing visitors that a particular site is closed between certain times and cannot be accessed

9. INCREASE THE CHANCES OF BEING CAUGHT

Increasing the likelihood that an offender will be caught to prevent crime occurring.

- Making use of dusk to dawn security lighting is in place and in working order
- Using good quality CCTV and/or alarm systems, especially on commercial sites and public places
- Good security delays an offender, meaning they spend more time to gain access

10. DEFLECTING OFFENDERS

Deterring an offender or deflecting their intention.

- Use timer switches or smart home routines to make homes look occupied if vacant during darkness
- Running youth diversionary schemes with partner agencies

