

Take A Stand Against Crime



Join a Neighborhood Watch

USA on Watch, Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Crime Watch or what ever the name, it's one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds from. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies and improves relations between police and communities they serve.

The ABC'S of Neighborhood Crime Watch

- Any community resident can join – young and old, single and married, renter and home owner.
- A few concerned residents, a community organization, or a law enforcement agency can spearhead the effort to organize a watch.
- Members learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood and report activities that raise their suspicions to the police or sheriff's office.
- You can form a watch group around any geographical unit: a block or street, apartment, park, business area, office or marina.
- Watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. Neighborhood Watch helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care and affordable housing.

Getting Organized

When the group decides to form a Neighborhood Watch, it:

- Contacts the police or sheriff's office or local crime prevention organization for help in training members in home security and reporting skills and for information on local crime partners.
- Selects a coordinator and block captains who are responsible for organizing meetings and relaying information to members.
- Recruits members, keeping up-to date on new residents and making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents and young people.
- Works with local government or law enforcement to put up Neighborhood Watch signs.

For more information contact:

Harris County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit

Attn: Deputy J. P. McGowen

Neighborhood Watch

9111 Eastex Freeway Ste 300

Houston, TX 77093

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713-759-9726 Fax

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Take Time Out ...

To Protect Your Home

Homeowners Insurance Reduction Requirements (Up to 5% Insurance Discount)

1. Exterior doors must be metal or solid core wooden doors that are 1 3/8 inches thick and are secured by deadbolt locks.
Deadbolt locks must lock with a minimum bolt throw of one inch that penetrates a metal strike plate. If the door secured by deadbolt lock has breakable glass within 40 inches of the lock, the lock must be key operated from both sides unless prohibited by life safety codes.
2. Double doors must meet the specifications for exterior doors as described above and must have the inactive door secured by header

and threshold bolts that penetrate metal strike plates. If glass is located within 40 inches of the header and threshold bolts, the bolts must be flush mounted in the edge of the door.

3. Sliding glass doors must be secured by secondary locking devices to prevent lifting and prying.
4. Dutch doors must have concealed flush-bolt locking devices to interlock upper and lower door halves and must be secured by a double by a double cylinder deadbolt lock.
5. Garage doors must be equipped with key operated locking devices.
6. Windows must be secured by auxiliary locking devices such as screws, wooden dowels, pinning devices or key operated locks. If permitted by local codes metal bars or grating, if mounted to prevent easy removal, may be substituted for auxiliary locking devices. Jalousie or louvered windows do not meet the specifications of this section unless they have metal grating mounted as described above.

Alarm Reduction Requirements (Up to 15% Insurance Discount)

1. All exterior structure openings are contacted or covered by glass breaks or motion detectors.
2. The system includes an interior and exterior siren.
3. The system is monitored and U.L. approved.
4. Sales, service, installation and monitoring of the system are done in compliance with the Private Investigations and Private Security Agencies Act.

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Information Provided by:
National Crime Prevention Council