



HOME AND PERSONAL SAFETY

505 Grand Avenue

Bellingham, WA 98225

Neighborhood Police Officer Eric Osterkamp

CRIME PREVENTION Through ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN(CPTED)



Interior Lights & Radio

A couple of lights and the sound of a radio can make it seem as though someone is home.

Door Eye Viewer / Window

Ensure both adults and children can see out before they open a door.

Sliding Glass Doors Secured

Cover with security window film to help prevent shattering. Use track locks to prevent removal of door.

Casement or Double Hung Windows

Use various types of window stops for windows.

Exposed Fence Hinges

Ensure "pin" side is installed on inside of fence or fill with pins that cannot be removed.

Trim Hedges and Trees

Trim hedges below 2' and tree canopies higher than 6'.

Alarm System Sign

A simple sign or decal may make a would-be criminal think twice.

Mark Your Valuables

Use an identifiable mark or number such as your driver license number to mark your valuables.

23% of burglars enter through a first floor window

2% of burglars enter anywhere on the second floor

22% of burglars enter through the backdoor

9% of burglars enter through the garage

81% of residential intrusions occur through the first floor

34% of burglars through the front door

12% of burglars through an unlocked entrance



Reinforce Door Frame With Wood
Fill space between door jamb & studs with a solid piece of wood and shims to prevent it from being pried back.

Porch / Front Door Lights
Use high efficiency lights with motion sensors or a timer. Use a white light source that offers good color rendering. Lights should be installed out of arm's reach of a would-be criminal.

Deadbolt Locks on Doors
Deadbolt at least 1" into door frame. Install at least 3" screws in strike plate and hinges.

Driveway and Walkway Lights
Use high efficiency lights with motion sensors or timers.

Garage Door Securely Locked
Do not leave a spare key outside your home. Leave with a trusted friend.

Easily Readable House Number
It's easier for police and other first responders to locate your home when the house numbers are large & well-lit.

Reinforce Basement Windows
Ensure there is a quick-release mechanism for easy exit in case of emergency.



Walk alertly, confidently and pay attention to your surroundings.

General Safety Tips

Pay close attention to your surroundings, avoid "automatic pilot"

Walk with a purpose; project an assertive, business-like image. Use common sense; plan your route to avoid uninhabited parks, parking lots, garages and alleyways.

Stick to well-lit areas. Develop a plan before you see trouble. Crossing a street or entering a store may get you out of a potentially bad situation.

If a car follows you or beckons you while you are walking, do not approach it. Instead, turn and quickly walk the opposite direction.

Consider wearing clothing and shoes that you can move freely and quickly in, especially when walking or waiting for the bus. Carry minimal items; overloading yourself can make you appear vulnerable.



Safety on The Street

Before you leave home decide what you actually need to take with you rather than automatically taking your entire handbag or wallet out of habit. For example, if you are going to the grocery store for a few items, you can carry cash, a single check, or credit/debit card, I.D. and keys in a pocket.

Wear clothing and shoes that are comfortable, low profile and appropriate for the weather. This may not be the most fashionable choice but it is the safest.

Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. Avoid shortcuts. Walk confidently. Scan your surroundings and make eye contact with people.

If you must carry valuables like important papers, jewelry, cash etc., chose to wear clothes with inside pockets or use a small bag with a long thin strap to be worn under your coat or clothes.

Never carry a wallet in back pocket of pants or jacket or sweater pocket. All cash should be carried in front pockets of pants.



Safety on the Street continued...

Carry your keys and ID separately. If someone gets your keys and ID, they may go to your home or business and access that location with the keys.

If you use bank machines (ATM's) choose one located in a well-lit, busy spot like inside a grocery store. Put your card and cash away before leaving the machine.

Don't display large sums of cash and don't carry any more cash than is necessary. Use checks where possible. Most stores accept checks, check cards and debit cards as well
Never leave your purse unattended, even if it is in a shopping cart.

Carry your purse very close to you preferable with the strap over your shoulder and the purse to the front of your body. Don't dangle it from your arm.

Avoid walking alone at night. As much as possible, walk or travel with a friend, even during the daytime.



Spot and Avoid Potential Trouble

Be aware of your surroundings and know who is nearby.

Pay attention to the uncomfortable feelings that often warn us of potential danger.

Don't be afraid to cross the street, return to a business, or ask for help based on a "funny feeling". You may be right!

Responding To a Confrontation

If a robber grabs your bag, resist the impulse to play tug of war. If you hang on, chances are you will be knocked down, hit, or kicked and the robber will get your bag anyway.

Victims sometimes tell a robber they have no money. This technique may backfire. It is safer to give up a few dollars. Carry a little money in an accessible place for just this purpose. Keep it separate from other funds.

If someone demands your property and displays or implies in any way that they have a weapon, hand the bag or wallet to them.