

Make it hard for criminals:

Harden the Target

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Protecting Today.
Securing Tomorrow.



Burglars are lazy, so make it difficult to get into your home.

If you use deterrents and obstacles, like extra locks on doors and windows, security plants, window pins, charley bars and more, you can send the lazy criminal to a softer target. We don't want that target to be your neighbor, so work together with your neighbors using the same strategies and techniques to make sure the burglar is unsuccessful on your street.

Criminals may not commit the crime if:

- There's a greater risk of being seen, challenged or caught.
- There's greater effort required.
- The possible reward isn't worth the effort.

It's in your best interest to increase the possibility of the burglar being seen, make it harder for them to break into your homes, and keep your valuables out of sight & easier to identify later, in case they are stolen.

Seen, Challenged, or Caught

- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed back from windows, doors and walkways. The rule of thumb is shrubs should be no taller than 3 feet, and tree branches should be trimmed up to 7 feet to maintain clear visibility.
- Join or start Neighborhood Watch on your block. Get to know your neighbors. If you have an idea of who belongs on your street, it's easier to recognize persons who don't belong. Please look at the behavior and actions of the unfamiliar person, and base your actions not on their ethnic group or the way they dress. Observe the behavior.
- Consider using an alarm system. Alarms must be registered with the Police Department. Please be aware there are fines for false alarms.

Greater Effort

- Make it harder for burglars to case your house by having all windows screened with perhaps a semitransparent curtain inside. If they can't easily see in, they don't know what you have to steal.
- Make it harder to get into the house: Have SOLID doors with LONG screws in the strike plate and locking hardware. Use deadbolt locks with 1" minimum throw on all exterior doors. Use secondary locks on all windows.
- Keep garage doors closed when not in immediate use.
- Install bright lights, solar or motion detectors at vulnerable places on your home like in backyards, side yards, garage doors, etc.
- Use a snug fitting wooden or metal rod in the sliding door track or use a pin lock that pins the door frame to frame.

Less Chance of Reward

- Big ticket items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers can be inscribed with an identifying name or number for the purpose of having that property returned to you in the event of it being stolen.
- Create a home inventory that's up to date and includes photos. Keep a copy in a secure place.
- Don't put boxes that contained your new iPad, TV, DVD player, Computer, etc., out on the curb, so all your neighbors and the burglars know what you have. Break those boxes down & 'conceal' them inside the recycling bin.
- Consider storing jewelry and other small valuables in a bank's safe deposit box, especially while you're away on vacation.

Awareness Tips

- Don't over share your private information on social media like when you're at a concert at the amphitheater and will be out for several hours, or out of town for the weekend or on vacation. Burglars use google street view and other social media to help them case your neighborhood.
- Don't open the door to strangers. Do you have a security screen door? Does your front door have a peephole so you can see who is at the door?
- Are there criminal activity hubs in your neighborhood, if so do you know where those areas are?
- Do you LISTEN & LOOK when you hear smashing glass, prolonged pounding, a neighbor's alarm going off, or even a dog that refuses to quiet down.

Links for Information & Tips

- Local crime statistics: www.crimemapping.com
- Private social network for neighbors: www.nextdoor.com
- www.facebook.com/ChulaVistaNeighborhoodWatch
- Handouts: www.chulavistaca.gov/goto/neighborhoodwatch

**If you SEE SOMETHING,
will you SAY SOMETHING?**

Contact