



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHES

Establishing an organized, well-run Neighborhood Watch is a great way not only to help prevent crime in your neighborhood, but to build closer relationships between neighbors. You'll need neighbors who are interested in watching out for and alerting others about potentially dangerous activity in your area. Neighborhood Watches take time and dedication, as well as support from law enforcement, but if run correctly, they can increase the overall safety of your neighborhood.

Here are some basic steps you can take to establish a Neighborhood Watch in your area.

1. Gauge interest by asking neighbors how they would feel about having a Neighborhood Watch, and if they'd be willing to be a part of it. You can also use this as an opportunity to ask your neighbors if they have any safety concerns.
2. Reach out to our local law enforcement to remind them of your community's concerns, and ask what they might be able to do to help you.
3. Create an accurate map of the area your watch will keep an eye on, and be sure to mark houses that are interested.
4. Choose a coordinator or co-coordinators who will keep in contact with law enforcement and develop projects that will contribute to the betterment of your community. Appointing block captains is another good idea.
5. Have regular meetings where community members can voice their concerns and the watch can decide on action plans.
6. Train phone tree volunteers who will help spread information should a safety alert arise.

Neighborhood Watches are an involved but helpful community program. [National Neighborhood Watch Institute](#) has a lot of resources available to help you, including more detailed information about starting a watch compiled in a handbook.

[Here's a checklist](#) from the National Crime Prevention Council that helps you make sure you've done everything you need to do to get your Neighborhood Watch off the ground.
