

CPTED Basics.....

In a nutshell, CPTED involves the design, maintenance, and use of your environment to reduce both incidences and fear of crime.

- ⇒ **Natural Surveillance** is achieved through design and maintenance that allows people engaged in their normal activity to easily observe the space around them, as well as eliminate hiding places for people engaged in criminal activity. It should also create a risk for those contemplating criminal behavior
- ⇒ **Territoriality.** means providing clear designation between public, private, and semi-private areas so people understand, and participate in, an area's intended use. It communicates a sense of active "ownership" of an area that discourages the perception that illegal acts may be committed in the area without notice or consequences.
- ⇒ **Access Control** is a concept directed primarily at decreasing criminal accessibility, especially into areas where a person with criminal intent would not easily be seen by others.

And how does this apply to your property and neighborhood? Ask yourself the following questions inside.....

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

City of West Sacramento

Community Development Department
1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento CA 95691

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Everyone knows the importance of being aware of their surroundings, with regards to personal safety and accident prevention. But did you know, through some easy fixes and common sense practices, **you** can help discourage illegal activity targeting your home, personal property, and neighborhood?





Natural Surveillance

✓ Is landscaping selected and trimmed so entrances and ground floor windows are visible from the street and/or from neighbors' houses? Is landscaping selected and trimmed to prevent places of concealment for unauthorized users?

✓ Are windows free of obstructions, such as bushes, trees, and walls, so that there are clear views from inside of the house?

✓ Is the fence designed to be at least partially see-through, so that an adult could not hide behind it?

✓ Do you spend time on the front porch and in the front yard?

✓ Are neighbors acquainted with one another and active in gardening or other activities on the street? This communicates to visitors that residents are invested and likely to be aware of what's happening in the neighborhood. Are neighbors organized into a Neighborhood Watch? Do they know how to identify and report suspicious activity?

✓ Are there wide-angle viewers (peep holes) on all entrances or a window in the door or immediately adjacent to it?

✓ Does outside lighting provide a soft, even light around the house, without deep shadows or bright glare? Are there motion-sensing or photosensitive lights over the garage door?

✓ Is there a City-registered alarm system in use? Alarms don't deter all burglars, but they can be helpful.

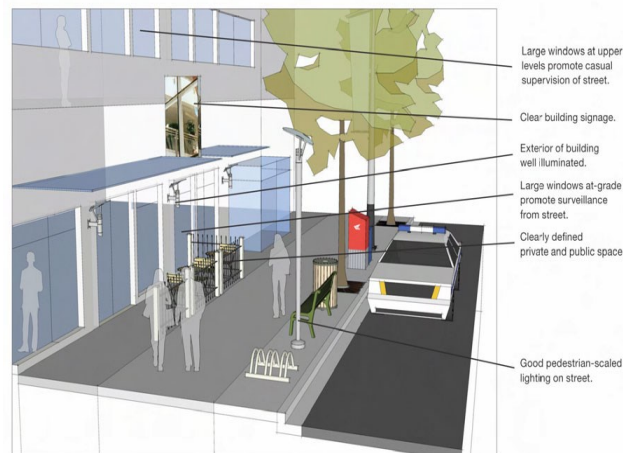
Territoriality

✓ Is there a clear transition between the sidewalk or public property and your property, which may be achieved by fencing, pavement textures, and/or landscaping?

✓ When residents are absent on weekends or vacations, is an appearance of occupancy created by setting exterior and interior lighting on timers, stopping the mail and newspapers, etc? Do residents organize litter patrols or other activities to maintain the look and feel of the neighborhood?

✓ Are street address numbers visible from the street and illuminated at night?

✓ Are lighting, landscaping, and structural aspects of the property maintained to show others that someone cares about the residence and the neighborhood? Consider calendar reminders to check periodically.



✓ Do you have a list of property items that note serial numbers and descriptions of valuables such as televisions or speakers to help identification in case of a burglary? Two copies should be maintained with one stored in a fire-proof place. Are pictures taken of jewelry for records and identification? Are identification numbers engraved on equipment? Never use a Social Security Number to engrave your valuables.

Access Control

✓ Are there clear pathways to designate entryways and places on the property where people are allowed to walk?

✓ Are all windows and doors, including the garage, gates, and sheds, shut and locked whenever they are not in active use?

✓ When hiring contractors, including landscapers and house cleaners, are references checked and is the business verified with the Better Business Bureau, where applicable?

✓ Are valuables, including mail and bicycles, stored out of view of main windows or entrances? Are garage windows covered?

✓ Are exterior doors of heavy-duty, solid-core construction? Are they fitted with a deadbolt with at least a 1" throw? Are strike plates secured with 3" long screws/bolts that penetrate into the studs of the frame? Are hinges for exterior doors installed so that doors open inward?

✓ Does the home look occupied when vacationing?

Additional CPTED questions? See below.

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