



Your Home Your Security

In the early 70's, the idea that the proper design and effective use and maintenance of the built environment could lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, therefore improving the quality of life.

1. **Natural Surveillance** refers to areas where people and their activities can be observed. The ability to see and be seen. This will, quite often, bring into play the issue of privacy versus security. Security should always be placed first and foremost.

One of the ways natural surveillance can be achieved is through landscape design. Keep trees limbed up to at least the six- foot mark. With shrubbery, keep it trimmed at three feet, or if the growth habit of the shrub is taller, trim the shrub up two feet to allow visibility, eliminating the possibility of concealment or entrapment areas.

Lighting can also improve visibility into an area. One of the considerations with lighting is who are you lighting up the area for?

2. **Natural Access Control** refers to the physical guidance of people into and out of a space. Ensure entrances are visible, well-lit and overlooked by windows. Clearly define entrances and/or exits with the placement of real barriers such as hedges or fences. These do not need to be six feet tall, even a two- foot barrier can direct the movement of individuals.
3. **Territoriality** is the expression of ownership in an area. This can be obtained by cleaning up your neighbourhoods or businesses, removing graffiti, joining a Block Watch, or participating in the Crime Free Multi-Housing program. Take part in the "Adopt a Street" campaign administered by the City and Township of Langley. Other tools which can create a sense of territoriality could be the strategic use of landscaping, signage and paving materials.

Territoriality sends the offender a message that the residents care and are looking out for one another.

4. **Target Hardening** pertains to the usage of security devices to lessen the vulnerability of potential targets of criminal activity. The placement of physical obstacles or features, such as locks, gates, alarms and key controls are common utilized devices. It is always important when using target hardening devices to remember you don't want to lock yourself in. The Fire Commissioner's Code must be followed. If you are concerned about the safety of your home, you can have a Home Security Check performed by an RCMP trained volunteer. Contact our Block Watch Co-ordinator to arrange for an appointment, at (604) 532-3213.

We need to hear from you.

Call **911** if you are witnessing a crime/incident in progress. The most effective and efficient way to report a suspicious person/activity or a crime that has already occurred is to call the non-emergency number **604.532.3200**. To provide clear direction for emergency services please have your address and/or building name clearly posted.