

Community Safety Message

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

The main goal of CPTED is to deter criminal behaviour.

What is CPTED?

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design – or CPTED, (pronounced sep-ted) is the proper design, maintenance, and use of the built environment in order to enhance the quality of life and to reduce both the incidence and the fear of crime in your home, work or community environment.

CPTED uses many different strategies that work together to create safer communities. It complements crime prevention strategies such as locks and bars, police and security personnel and, ultimately, increases our freedom to use our communities.

You can apply CPTED to your environment by following the three basic strategies:



1. Natural Access Control - Restricts access

Natural access control guides how people enter and leave a space through the placement of entrances, exits, fences, landscaping and lighting. It can decrease opportunities for criminal activity by denying criminals access to potential targets and creating a perception of risk for would-be offenders. **Use** Gates, fences, walls, footpaths, landscaping and lighting to clearly guide visitors to a specific entrance and exit. **Display** Neighbourhood Watch signs and stickers to discourage offenders.



2. Natural Surveillance - Increases visibility

Natural surveillance guides the placement of physical features such as windows, lighting and landscaping. These features affect how much can be seen by occupants and passersby. Potential criminals are unlikely to attempt a crime if they are at risk of being observed. Similarly, we are likely to feel safer when we can see and be seen. **Do** regular maintenance checks to make sure lights are working and keep your property tidy and well maintained. **Display** Neighbourhood Watch signs on your letter box.



3. Territorial Reinforcement - Promotes a sense of ownership

Physical design can create an area of territorial influence that can be perceived by and may deter potential offenders. Examples include defined property lines and clear distinctions between private and public spaces. Territorial reinforcement can be created using landscaping, pavement designs, gateway treatments, signs and fences. **Define** property lines. Even a small fence in the front yard does this psychologically. **Use** landscaping to designate areas which are off limit. **Design** pathways, gates, or signs to emphasise the differences between spaces.

Contact your Neighbourhood Watch state office for street signs and stickers.



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