

A Checklist for Starting a Neighborhood Watch Program

You Will Need

- A person or group of people committed to starting a Neighborhood Watch.
- A list of what issues initially need to be addressed in your community.
- A means of communicating with the residents, e.g., e-mail, fliers.
- Publicity for the initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- A meeting agenda to keep things moving.
- A place to meet-resident's house or apartment.
- A crime prevention officer to discuss the crime issues in the neighborhood and to help train members.
- A map of the community with spaces for names, addresses, and phone numbers of all households.
- Brochures or other materials on topics of interest to the residents.
- A sign-up sheet for those interested in becoming block or building captains.
- Neighborhood Watch signs to be posted around the community.
- Facts about crime in your neighborhood. (These can be found in crime reports, newspapers, and residents' perception about crime. Often residents' opinions are not supported by facts, and accurate information can reduce fear of crime.)



To Add Excitement

- Mix business with pleasure -allow attendees time to socialize.
- Work with such existing organizations as citizens' association, tenants' association, or housing authorities.
- Provide speakers on topics of community interest.
- Start a neighborhood newsletter.

To Build Partnerships

- The sheriffs' office's endorsement is critical to a Watch group's credibility. This agency is the major source of information on local crime patterns, crime prevention education, and crime reporting.
- Media can aid Neighborhood Watches by publicizing recruitment drives.
- Look to volunteer centers, parent groups, and places of worship for advice on recruiting volunteers.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

Crime Prevention Tips provided by:

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