

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The Placer County Sheriff's Office understands that businesses have many reasons to secure their premises. At the heart of securing businesses and private property is an architectural concept called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Just as architects design buildings to keep out the weather, CPTED is designed to keep out criminals, prevent crime, and enhance the safety sensed by customers and employees.

- **The greater risk of being seen, challenged, or caught; the less likely criminals will commit a crime.**
- **The greater effort required, the less likely criminals will commit a crime.**
- **The lesser the actual or perceived rewards, the less likely they are to commit a crime.**

CPTED has three main principles :

1 - Natural Surveillance

Make your business as visible as possible from the outside by having clear lines of sight into it.

- Refrain from placing merchandize displays or allowing bushes and plants to overgrow where criminals can hide. Remove overgrown vegetation, maintain bushes below two feet tall, and trim tree canopies above six feet.
- Install and maintain good lighting, repair non-operable lighting fixtures immediately.
- Use recorded video surveillance, indoors and outdoors, with cameras clearly visible and positioned so their fields of view overlap. To underscore that your video surveillance is working put a monitor near the entrance so potential criminals see themselves when they enter and a clear view of their face is captured on video.

2 - Natural Access Control

Direct the flow of vehicles and people into and out of your premises, so you can better see who's coming and going.

- Vehicles should park in well-lit defined spaces. This includes employees not parking behind the business or alleyways.
- Use barriers, curbs, or gates to keep vehicles in view of the business entrance and video surveillance .
- Building entrances should be visible with some audible alert when opened. The sound lets employees know someone has walked in and should be greeted personally as a further deterrent to mischief.
- Make sure roof access is strictly controlled

3 - Territorial Reinforcement

Creates a clear line between public space and your business premise.

- Fences, hedges, signage or some combination, lets intruders know they're not welcome.
- Signs or stickers related to security should be placed on the front door, all exits and windows.

CPTED principles, in combination with proper building maintenance and premise security hardware, can help further safeguard your business.

