



## What is neighborhood watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program enlisting the active participation of residents in cooperation with the LAPD to reduce the incidence and fear of crime in their communities. It involves neighbors getting to know each other to develop a program of mutual assistance. It involves neighbors being educated in crime reporting and suspect identification techniques. Finally, it involves neighbors using crime prevention strategies as tools to reduce crime in their communities.

## Why neighborhood watch?

The community has the primary responsibility for fighting crime. The most effective approach one, i.e., stopping it before it occurs. This can happen when neighbors cooperate with each other to assist the LAPD. Neighborhood Watch members place stickers in their windows and post Neighborhood Watch signs on streets, warning criminals they are in an active Neighborhood Watch community, and that "neighbors are watching out for each other."



You may contact the Los Angeles Police Department by calling the following, toll free, at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) or TTY 1-877-275-5273 for the hearing impaired. You may also obtain additional information on this subject, along with additional crime prevention tips, by visiting the Los Angeles Police Department's Web site at [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) and clicking on the "Crime Prevention Tips" icon.

Should you have information regarding a criminal investigation or activity, please contact your local police station or the LAPD crime hotline at 1-877-LAWFULL (1-877-529-3855).

Los Angeles Police Department  
Community Relations Section  
Crime Prevention Unit  
150 North Los Angeles Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 485-3134  
[www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)

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# Neighborhood Watch

[www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)



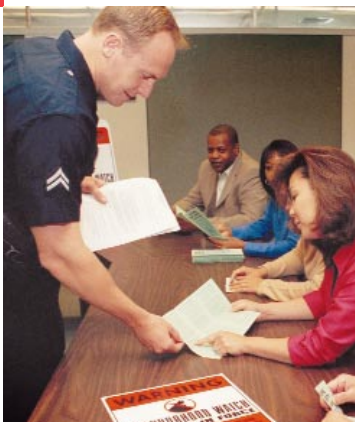
Neighborhood Watch programs are the most effective means available for keeping crime out of neighborhoods. It relies on the best crime fighting tool ever invented, i.e., a good neighbor. Fortunately, good neighbors are found everywhere. They live in houses, apartment buildings, urban, suburban and rural areas.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Neighborhood Watch Program unites the LAPD with local organizations and individual residents in a community-wide effort to reduce residential crime. Neighbors working together with the LAPD are a formidable crime fighting team. Be a good neighbor and make your community safer by starting a Neighborhood Watch Program.

## How do I start a Neighborhood Watch Program?

The LAPD will assist in starting a program in your neighborhood. An LAPD representative will be available for your first meeting to assist with the initial organization of the Neighborhood Watch Program and discuss crime concerns specific to your neighborhood or community. Contact your LAPD community police station to get started.

Talk to your neighbors. Are they interested? Do they understand the value of a Neighborhood Watch Program? Are they aware of, or concerned about specific crime problems in your area? If they are, be sure to mention the following:



- Neighborhood Watch is a partnership between neighbors to assist the LAPD in the reduction and fear of crime;

- Neighborhood Watch does not require frequent meetings;

- Neighborhood Watch does not make ask anyone to take personal risks to prevent crime;

- LAPD will attend your meetings to answer questions about crime and provide information about police procedures

## Maintaining a Neighborhood Watch Program

After your Neighborhood Watch is established, be sure everyone understands and observes the following guidelines:

- Be alert to unusual or suspicious behavior in your neighborhood. Call the LAPD if necessary. Write down descriptions of suspicious person(s) and license numbers;

- Tell a trusted neighbor if your house will be unoccupied for an extended period. Tell him or her how to reach you in an emergency;

- Look after your neighbor's homes when they are away and ask them to look after yours. This includes picking up mail, newspapers and storing trashcans or recycling bins. Don't send a message that says, 'No One Is Home;'

- Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings often. Your LAPD crime prevention officer will teach you about local crime trends and what you can do about them;

- Above all, stay involved. It is the most effective way to reduce or prevent crime and make your neighborhood safe; and



- Remember your job is to report crime. The responsibility for apprehending criminals belongs to the police.

The key to keeping a Neighborhood Watch group active is maintaining interest over time. By getting everyone involved you will create a feeling of pride and the atmosphere of a small town, even if you live in a large city. Neighborhood Watch can easily be adapted to meet your needs, wherever you live or work.

Active Neighborhood Watch groups can make changes, through their local officials, such as improving street lighting, increasing extra patrol and changing traffic flow patterns. Active apartment or multi-family dwelling groups can make changes by working closely with their landlords or building managers. They can work together to improve lighting and security of individual units, as well as communal areas and develop new policies or practices to improve building or property security.

Make belonging to your Neighborhood Watch group enjoyable. People will get involved and remain interested if the programs are fun as well as meaningful. Use your imagination. Schedule potluck dinners, organize clean-up campaigns or hold block parties. The possibilities are endless when neighbors unite and work together.