

## How to establish Neighbourhood Watch in your area

Neighbourhood Watch is simple: keep your eyes open around your neighbourhood and, if you see anything suspicious - people, vehicles or activities - call the Police by dialling 911.

Neighbourhood Watch is neighbours helping neighbours, by watching out for them to discourage and prevent crime from occurring. The “Golden Rule” of Neighbourhood Watch: You watch out for your neighbours and your neighbours watch out for you. Neighbourhood Watch is also neighbours helping the Toronto Police Services, by being their extra “eyes and ears on the street” to report crime and practice crime prevention.

If you see something that is either (a) a crime taking place, or (b) out-of-the-ordinary and suspicious: Call 911.

Neighbourhood Watch is only as active as you are.

When to call 911	Less Urgent Calls to Police
<p>Call 911 only when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's urgent and important: a crime may be in progress and police, ambulance or fire assistance is needed right away.</li> <li>Someone's health or safety is at risk.</li> </ul>	<p>If you don't need urgent help but need to call the police to give them information or ask questions, call Toronto Police Services at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>416-808-2222 and ask to be transferred to your local Toronto Police Services Division Office.</li> </ul>

## What to do to organize your neighbours into a Neighbourhood Watch Group

Neighbourhood Watch begins and ends with you. To Get Started, it's simple:

- Reach out to your immediate neighbours, the house next door or the people in your apartment floor:
  - drop off or email them a copy of this info sheet to let them know what's involved;
  - if you don't already have them, find out their names and phone numbers (if listed) by looking them up using the reverse address listings provided by:  
<http://www.canada411.ca/search/address.html>
- Exchange contact information:
  - exchange phone numbers and email addresses so you can easily communicate with your group;

- b. create a group email chain or private Facebook or NextDoor group for your immediate neighbours;
- c. create a “map” of the homes around yours by filling in the table below, or draw a map of your apartment floor:

Neighbour:	Across the Street Neighbour:	Neighbour:
Your street		
Next Door Neighbour:	Your house	Next Door Neighbour:
Neighbour:	Backyard Neighbour:	Neighbour:

3. Find out what Toronto Police Services (“TPS”) Division you live in and contact the Crime Prevention Officer(s) in your area:
  - a. Go to the [“Find My Division”](#) page on the Toronto Police Service website and enter your street address.
    - i. Click on the map for your Neighbourhood or Division and you can search for crime reports in your area.
  - a. Go to the [Contacts](#) page and find the Neighbourhood Officer for your Division.
  - b. Go to the [Maps](#) page and find data on reported crime in your Neighbourhood.
  - c. Your Crime Prevention Officer can give you information on:
    - i. crime issues in your neighbourhood and how to respond to them;
    - ii. who is your neighbourhood’s representative on the **Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC)** in your Division. Your CPLC is a committee with members drawn from various residents’, tenants’, community and business associations. They meet every few months with Toronto Police Services Officers in your Division to provide feedback on community policing and crime prevention. If your neighbourhood or community

association does not yet have a representative, consider getting appointed to be their representative.

**Once you are up and running:**

1. Get and share information about crime statistics in your neighbourhood. There's a wealth of data at Toronto Police Service [Data & Maps](#) webpage.
2. If you would rather get email updates on reported crimes, consider subscribing to get free emails from [MyCommunityWatch.org](#).
2. Homes are often at risk because of the way the building and its surroundings were designed. That design can be changed to be safer by adding lighting, reducing blind spots or using other architectural tricks to solve security problems. Ask your Crime Prevention Officer about having Toronto Police Services do a **CPTED audit** of your home or business. CPTED is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design<sup>1</sup> and can offer suggestions as to how to make your home and its immediate surroundings not only be safer but also feel safer.
3. Get and share information about what you can do to prevent crime in your neighbourhood. Please see the resources on our website at [CrimePreventionTO.org](#)
4. If you have one, let your local residents', ratepayers', condo or tenants' association know that you're participating in Neighbourhood Watch. They may be of help to get others in your neighbourhood involved.
5. Let us know about your group and your activities.
  - a. Let us know what you are doing by emailing [Info@CrimePreventionTO.org](mailto:Info@CrimePreventionTO.org).
  - b. Consider joining our "Neighbourhood Watch – Toronto" [Facebook](#) or [NextDoor](#) groups for weekly tips on crime prevention.
6. Keep watching out for one another!

*Words of Wisdom from Jane Jacobs*

from "The Death and Life of Great American Cities", 1961

"...there must be eyes upon the street, eyes belonging to those we might call the natural proprietors of the street."

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on CPTED, visit <https://cptedcanada.com>