



A Home Owner's Guide **HOME SECURITY**

**Working to strengthen
our community through
the reduction and
prevention of crime
within Meridian.**

Most people do not realize how easily they can become victims, or how easily they can prevent it from happening. Unfortunately, thieves seek out these vulnerable targets by accessing homes and garages through unlocked doors and windows with minimum effort. The majority of residential crimes are crimes of opportunity, wherein the victims have left their homes or vehicles unsecure. By taking a few steps to make your premise secure, whether you are home or away, your chances of being victimized can reduce substantially.



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), is the proper design, maintenance, and use of the built environment in order to enhance the quality of life and reduce both the incidence and the fear of crime. This environmental approach incorporates 5 principles, each of which is equally important to address.

5 Basic CPTED Principles

- 🏠 Natural Surveillance** – Criminals are less likely to attempt a crime if they are at risk of being seen. Likewise we are likely to feel safer when we can be seen. Any architectural design that enhances the chance of being seen, is a form of natural surveillance.
- 🏠 Natural Access Control** – Part of creating a controlled space is focusing on entry and exit points of a property, park or neighborhood.
- 🏠 Territorial Reinforcement** – The use of physical attributes to create defined lines between owned and public spaces, such as fences, signage, landscaping, lighting, etc.
- 🏠 Activity Support** – Placing activity where individuals become part of the natural surveillance and fosters community interaction. Example, community parks or common spaces.
- 🏠 Maintenance** – A well maintained property creates a sense of territory for legitimate users of that space and shows the owner cares for and will defend the space against crime.

Using the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Designs (CPTED) you can secure your home by focusing on 3 areas, the **exterior**, **perimeter** and **interior**.



The Exterior



Landscaping

Landscaping defines and identifies your yard as your space, and serves to help direct visitors and deter unwanted visitors. Keep shrubs trimmed low and prune trees up from the ground to allow vision through the trees and low-profile plants. Also, be sure they do not block address numbers or windows. Staying on top of maintenance is important, showing outsiders you take pride in your home.

Lighting

Light up the perimeter of your home during the night, including entrances, garages, rear doors, and dark areas. Lighting is a deterrent for someone who is tempted to commit a crime and allows you and your neighbors to see what is happening around your home.



The Interior



Inventory Your Valuables

Create an inventory of valuables in your home. This may include a picture, serial number, receipt or written description of items. If items are ever stolen or go missing they can easily be reported to law enforcement and insurance. Valuables and important documents should be secured in a safe when they are not in use.

Evidence of Activity

Giving your home a “lived in” appearance can significantly reduce your chances of being burglarized. If a burglar believes someone is home or it will be difficult for them to make a quick entrance and exit they are likely to move on to another opportunity. Setting up lights with timers is a good way to accomplish this.



The Perimeter



Doors

All wooden entrance doors should be of solid core construction. This also applies to the exterior pedestrian garage door and the door that passes from the house into the garage. All doors should be secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw and 3"-4" screws securing the strike plate.

To better secure sliding glass doors or french doors look for after market locking mechanisms to add additional reinforcement and security.

Monitor garage activity with a smart garage door opener. It can alert you when your door is opened and allow you to close the door remotely when you are away.

Windows

Windows should be closed and secure when not home, even on the second level. Additional locks can be purchased and added to windows for additional security.

