

# ***NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH & CRIME PREVENTION***



***DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT***

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## **AN INTRODUCTION TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BOOKLET**

In this booklet, you will find a wealth of information: tips on protecting yourself, your family, and your property. You will learn about various free services offered by the Denver Police Department (DPD) such as Neighborhood Watch, Home Security Checks, and Citizen Academies, along with how you can help us prevent crime.

The safety and welfare of citizens in the City and County of Denver are of paramount concern to the Denver Police Department. We believe that police and community working together can make a difference, and we welcome your involvement and participation.

The mission of the Denver Police Department is to operate a police agency focused on preventing crime in a respectful manner, demonstrating that everyone matters. We recognize that crime prevention can only be realized with the involvement of informed citizens.

### **Don't be a victim. Get involved!**

**District One**  
**720-913-0400**

**District Three**  
**720-913-1300**

**District Five**  
**720-913-1400**

**District Two**  
**720-913-1000**

**District Four**  
**720-913-0200**

**District Six**  
**720-913-2800**

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**Denver Police Department  
Community Resource Officers**



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# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ESSENTIALS

## *Overview*

The Neighborhood Watch Program is aimed at preventing crime, as well as, making your home, family and neighborhood safer. Neighborhood Watch is a partnership between the Denver Police Department and the communities it serves.

Neighborhood Watch encourages completing a home inventory and marking your valuables and other high-risk items. Taking these steps can increase your chance of recovering your property, or the value of that property, in the event of a theft or loss. Neighborhood Watch means neighbors watching out for each other by reporting suspicious persons, vehicles and activities to the Denver Police Department. When your block participates in the Neighborhood Watch Program, the City will install a Neighborhood Watch sign to warn criminals, and encourage newcomers that your neighborhood is organized against crime, and residents are looking out for each other.



If you have any questions regarding Neighborhood Watch, Citizen Academies or any other topic dealing with crime prevention; please contact your local Denver Police District Station. You can refer to the map at the end of this booklet to determine which Denver Police District Station patrols your neighborhood.



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OPERATION I.D. / NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INVENTORY

MEMBER NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		
RESIDENCE ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
HOME PHONE (     )	BUSINESS PHONE (     )	
ID NUMBER USED	EMAIL	

**ANY QUESTIONS?  
CALL YOUR DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE  
OFFICER**

<p><b>DISTRICT 1</b> 720-913-0400</p> <p><b>DISTRICT 2</b> 720-913-1000</p> <p><b>DISTRICT 3</b> 720-913-1300</p>	<p><b>DISTRICT 4</b> 720-913-0200</p> <p><b>DISTRICT 5</b> 303-913-1400</p> <p><b>DISTRICT 6</b> 720-913-2800</p>
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**Congratulations!** You have taken an important positive step toward preventing burglary of your home or business and the theft of valuable property. We suggest you read all the information provided on this form. It will make the task of marking your valuables easier and more meaningful.

1. Mark all of your valuable items. Do a bit of organizing before you begin the marking and you will be able to complete the job in a single day. Consider taking color photos of your valuables and saving them to a thumb-drive or a disc. We recommended that photographs be taken of these items as well as any paintings, furniture pieces, coins, etc. Keep the photographs with your insurance papers in a safe place. **DO NOT** send them to the Denver Police Department.
2. An electric engraving pen can be used to permanently mark any wood, plastic, or metal surface with the number on the attached registration card. Jewelry is difficult to engrave yourself. Consider having a professional do it for you.
3. The underside or back of most items offers ample room for engraving your number without defacing the finished side. **DO NOT** mark your number on a removable part of the item. **DO NOT** mark china, porcelain, glassware, antiques, jewelry, silver flatware, or silver serving pieces. The pen is too coarse and may damage these articles.
4. As you mark your property, record each item on the Valuable Property Inventory Record. Retain this document for your files. Complete the registration card and return it to your Block Captain. Your Block Captain will provide you with decals identifying you as a member of the Neighborhood Watch Program.
5. If any of the marked items are lost or stolen, notify the police department immediately. Show the Valuable Property Inventory Record and photos to the investigating officer. This information will increase the probability of your property being recovered by a law enforcement agency and returned to you.

**DOWNLOAD YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INVENTORY RECORD  
AT [DENVERGOV.ORG/NEIGHBORHOODWATCH](http://DENVERGOV.ORG/NEIGHBORHOODWATCH)**







# VALUABLE PROPERTY INVENTORY RECORD



Last Update:

	Item Description	Make	Model	Serial #	Purchase Date	Where Purchased	Cost	Check if Photo Attached	Check if Receipt Attached	Remarks
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										
17										
18										
19										
20										
21										
22										
23										
24										

The Denver PD suggests keeping a record of your valuables in the unfortunate event items are stolen. While the inventory sheet is a good starting point, we recommend contacting your insurance provider for their unique requirements.

# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## HOME & NEIGHBOR SAFETY TIPS

### REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Whether it is a vehicle, person or sound, it is better to be safe and call the police, rather than to wait and later learn someone has been victimized.

#### Safety Tips:

- Make sure your home appears to be occupied even when you are not there.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before leaving your house and when you go to bed.
- Replace or upgrade locks, doors and windows, when needed, by calling a licensed locksmith or going to a hardware store.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable to intrusion. Special locks are available for increased security.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked at all times.
- Use exterior lighting such as porch lights.
- Consider an alarm system or a noise alarm that activates when windows or doors are breached.

#### If you are going away for an extended period of time:

- Do not advertise when you will be gone on social media sites.
- Arrange for lawn care and have your walks shoveled.
- Connect lamps to automatic timers to turn on in the evening and off during the day.
- Suspend daily delivery of mail and newspapers or arrange to have a friend or neighbor pick them up.
- Contact your local district station to advise them of when you will be gone.

**Please notify the District Station  
when you return from your vacation.**



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOME & NEIGHBOR SAFETY TIPS

## Safety Tips: (Cont.)

- Do not give personal information (i.e. account numbers, social security number, date of birth) over the phone or online if the call or action was not initiated by you.
- Be aware of Internet swindles, such as individuals asking you to mail or wire money.
- Do not allow any solicitor, repair person, etc. into your home unless you have requested them. If the person seems suspicious, or if you have any concerns, verify their ID and call the company they work for prior to letting them in.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering packages to gain entry. Request to see photo identification and carefully read it before opening the door. If you are unsure of their authenticity or if you feel uneasy, DO NOT allow them entry into your home. If they persist, call 9-1-1 immediately and report the situation.
- Criminals often take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door and falsely soliciting donations for charitable causes. It is safer to donate to charitable causes through your own efforts.

## Apartments & Condominiums

- Check stairwells make sure they are lit appropriately.
- When in a laundry room, make sure you are aware of who is entering and exiting the area.
- When walking through your complex, be aware of your surroundings and of vehicles driving in and out of the complex.
- Make sure your balcony door is secure and the locks are in working order.
- DO NOT let strangers into your building or complex.

**If you feel threatened or in case of an emergency, *do not hesitate!!!***

**CALL 9-1-1!**

**If you return home and find that your door or window has been forced open, **STOP!!!****  
**Call the police and wait for them down the street. **DO NOT** enter the home.**  
**The intruders could still be in the house.**



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## GRAFFITI

### GRAFFITI STOPS WITH YOU!

**Remove it! Report it!**  
**Every time it appears! Everywhere it appears!**

#### Prevent

- Protect your property – make it less accessible and attractive to vandals.
  - Plant short shrubs and plants with needles and thorns to create a barrier around your property
  - Plant vines and climbing plants along fences and walls
  - Trim shrubs and weeds; remove items that might create hiding places
  - Secure gates, repair fences and relocate items that intruders can use to scale fences and walls
- Install outdoor lighting – consider lights with motion sensors
  - Apply protective sealer to make graffiti cleanup quicker and easier

#### Remove

- Promptly remove graffiti from your property.
  - Free and discounted paint and graffiti removal products are available through Denver Partners Against Graffiti, police stations and COP Shops
    - ⇒ If you are unable to remove the graffiti, request free assistance from Denver Partners Against Graffiti by signing and submitting an authorization form.
    - ⇒ The form is included in this booklet. You can also request the form by calling 3-1-1, or download it at [www.denvergov.org/graffiti](http://www.denvergov.org/graffiti) Forms are available in both English and Spanish.
  - Call to request free paint and supplies to help keep the dumpsters, signs, etc. in your neighborhood graffiti-free

#### Report

- Take photos if possible, and report all incidents of graffiti vandalism in your community to the police. You can make an Online Report at the following link:  
<http://www.denvergov.org/policereport>

**Denver Partners against Graffiti**  
**720-865-STOP (7867) or 3-1-1**





**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY  
PUBLIC WORKS/  
NEIGHBORHOOD INSPECTION SERVICES

## GRAFFITI VANDALISM REMOVAL FORM

*Graffiti vandalism is illegal in Denver. Help keep Denver graffiti-free by authorizing the City to remove graffiti from your property free of charge!*

### CHECK BELOW TO ACCEPT OR DECLINE FREE GRAFFITI REMOVAL SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CITY OF DENVER

I authorize the City and County of Denver (employees or contractors) and any volunteer group approved by the City to attempt to remove unlawful and unwanted graffiti from my property without charge using available methods and equipment.  
**If you checked above and you currently have unwanted graffiti on your property and would like it removed, please specify the location of the graffiti:**

\_\_\_\_\_

I do not authorize the City and County of Denver to remove graffiti vandalism from my property.  
*NOTE: If this box is checked, you must have the graffiti vandalism removed from this property within 48 hours (non-residential property) or 72 hours (residential property) following notification.*

I give my consent for the markings/drawings on my property, and I do not authorize the removal of these markings/drawings. Indicate location of authorized markings (example: west garage wall, south side of fence, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
*NOTE: If this box is checked, the City will be unable to provide abatement assistance at this location AND you will be responsible for the removal of all other unauthorized graffiti vandalism from this property within 48 hours (non-residential property) or 72 hours (residential property) following notification.*

**I am the owner or responsible party of the property located at:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Street Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Daytime Telephone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

*NOTE: When authorizing graffiti removal, the owner or responsible party understands that the City and County of Denver or its contractor does not guarantee the structural or aesthetic soundness of the areas from which graffiti will be removed and that even in the exercise of due care, damage or injury to real or personal property may result from this activity. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City and County of Denver, their officers, agents, employees, and servants, from and against any and all claims, liability, expense, including defense costs and legal fees, and claims for damage of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to bodily injury, death, personal injury, or property damage arising from or connected with the City and County of Denver's graffiti removal activities. This document will remain in effect until modified or terminated by the property owner, his or her representative, or the City. Notification shall be in writing. I have read the above and understand it.*

### RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM BY MAIL OR FAX TO:

Neighborhood Inspection Services  
201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 303, Denver, CO 80202  
Fax: 720-865-3287; Questions? Call 3-1-1.

### Help Denver Give Graffiti Vandalism The Brush Off!

Check here to learn how to become a Brush Off partner and help keep your community graffiti-free.

For additional information on becoming a Brush Off partner or to learn tips to prevent graffiti vandals from targeting your property, visit [www.KnowGraffiti.com](http://www.KnowGraffiti.com) or call 3-1-1



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO REPORT A CRIME



## WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1

### YOU SHOULD CALL 9-1-1 WHEN:

- You need immediate Police, Fire, or Medical response.

### WHAT ARE SOME COMMON TYPES OF 9-1-1 CALLS?

- Crimes Against Persons (i.e. assault, domestic violence, child abuse)
- Fire (i.e. signs of fire, smoke, or noxious odors)
- Medical (i.e. seizures, falls, bodily injury)
- Acts Involving Weapons (i.e. guns, knives, etc.)
- Traffic Related Incidents (i.e. injury accidents)
- In-progress Property Crimes (i.e. burglary, theft, shoplifting)

### WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE 9-1-1 CALL TAKER NEED?

- Your name, address and telephone number.
- The nature of the incident, address, and time of occurrence.
- Are there injuries? Is *First-Aid* needed?
- A description of the victim, suspect, and/or vehicles involved.
- How do you want the officers to contact you? (In person? By phone?)  
*(If the officers don't need to come to your residence, you may request to have the responding officers contact you by phone)*

**The Denver Combined Communications Center has telecommunication capabilities for the deaf and hearing impaired.**

### **What you should do when you call 9-1-1 by mistake:**

*Please stay on the phone so we can verify whether you have an emergency. If the call-taker is unable to determine whether an emergency exists, a police officer will be dispatched to check on your welfare. The most common reasons 9-1-1 is called in error is young children playing on the telephone, misdialed long distance phone calls, or misdialed fax machines.*



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## HOW TO REPORT A CRIME

### WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?

Going door to door in a residential area, especially if one or more persons goes to rear of residence	Possible burglary
Waiting or loitering in front of a house or business, if business is closed or house unoccupied	Possible burglary
Forcing entry into a neighbor's house	Possible burglary in progress
Person running, especially if they are carrying something of value	Possible suspect fleeing the scene of a crime
Foot and vehicle traffic to and from a certain residence if it occurs on a daily/regular basis	Possible drug, gang, fencing, or prostitution activity
A person screaming	Possible assault, sexual assault, or abduction
Person loitering around cars or going car to car peering into them	Possible car thief, or theft from motor vehicle in progress
Person loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas	Possible sex offender or drug dealers
Person offering items for sale at a low price	Possibly trying to sell stolen property
Strangers loitering or slowly driving through a neighborhood several times	Possible burglary suspects, vandals, drug dealers, or sex offenders
Vehicle being loaded with valuables parked near a closed business or unoccupied residence	Possible burglary or theft in progress
Abandon vehicle parked on your block	Possible stolen vehicle
Adult or child being forced into a vehicle	Possible abduction or sexual assault in progress
Someone loitering around banks or ATM's	Robber looking for victim
Locked vehicle that someone is attempting to forcibly enter, especially in a parking lot	Possible auto theft or theft from motor vehicle in progress
Unusual noises such as gunshots, screaming or continuously barking dogs	Possible burglary, assault, sexual assault
Open or broken doors or windows at a closed business, or at an unoccupied residence	Possible burglary, vandalism, trespassing
Person exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms	Person may be injured, under the influence of drugs, or have a medical issue

**Remember! Any of the above activities could be legitimate. However if it is "suspicious" or unusual and you are concerned, call the Police.**

# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO REPORT A CRIME

## HOW TO GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF A SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE

### Vehicle:

- Body type \_\_\_\_\_
- Color \_\_\_\_\_
- How many doors? Two? Four? \_\_\_\_\_
- Size? Compact/Mid-size/Luxury? \_\_\_\_\_
- Plate Number? Letters/numbers? \_\_\_\_\_ State? \_\_\_\_\_
- Direction of travel? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many occupants? \_\_\_\_\_
- Description of occupants? \_\_\_\_\_
- Visible damage? \_\_\_\_\_



## HOW TO GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF A SUSPICIOUS PERSON

### Person:

- Sex
- Race,
- Nationality/ Ethnicity
- Complexion
- Age
- Height
- Weight
- Build
- Tattoos
- Eye color, eye glasses
- Hair length and color
- Clothing: type, color, style, shoes, pants, shirt; start at the top and work down
- Method of escape and means
- Was a weapon involved? Shape, color, size?

### SUSPECT IDENTITY CHART

Physical Description

**Method of Escape:**  
Direction \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Description:**  
Auto License \_\_\_\_\_  
Make/Yr \_\_\_\_\_  
Color \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Remarks:**

# 9-1-1





# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

## PERSONAL SAFETY

It is often pointed out that women, children, and the elderly are more vulnerable to being impacted by crime; however, as we now know, **anyone** can be a victim of crime. Many crimes may be prevented by taking these simple precautions.

### WALKING

*Always be aware of your surroundings and limit distractions.*

- Walk near the curb
- Notice people who pass you
- Avoid dark areas
- Take a cell phone, in case of an emergency
- Avoid passing close to shrubbery
- Walk in well-lit and well-traveled streets
- Avoid short-cuts
- At night, take a flashlight

*If any vehicle approaches and you are threatened or you are being followed:*

- Look for an open business or a nearby home for assistance
- Head for a well-lighted area where there are other people
- Don't accept rides from strangers
- Be prepared to protect yourself if someone attempts to force you into a vehicle
- *Scream!* and run in a direction opposite of the vehicle
- Call or have someone call 911



**If you are attacked and choose to resist:**

- Scream as loud as you can to attract attention**
- Do what you can to protect yourself, get away and call for help**



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF



## PERSONAL VEHICLE SAFETY

- Before getting into your vehicle, check the back seat.
- Do not TEXT and drive.
- Keep your car doors locked at all times when driving.
- **Do not** immediately open your door or get out of the car if hit from behind. It may be a trick to steal your vehicle. Stay calm and get your bearings.
- If someone needs help, is flagging you down, or if there is an accident on the highway; **CALL 911.**
- Consider a locking gas cap, and installing an alarm system.
- Do not give rides, or be tempted to accept rides from strangers.
- Never leave your car running and unoccupied (*Puffing is illegal in the state of Colorado, C.R.S. 42-4-1206*).
- Never leave keys in the car.
- Keep your spare keys in a safe place.
- Shut your garage door when you are not in your garage.
- Avoid parking in isolated or dark areas.
- Write down all your vehicle information and keep it in a safe place other than in your vehicle. (*If stolen there will not be a delay in reporting due to lack of information*).



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

## CHILD SAFETY

- Police officers, firefighters, and other emergency responders **are not strangers**. Teach your children how to properly identify emergency responders so that they are not deceived by impostors.
- Impress upon your young children the standard rule about never taking candy from a stranger; but also explain to them *why*.
- Children should never talk to strangers, get into their cars, nor go anywhere with someone they do not know and trust.
- Young children should never go alone into public restrooms.
- Young children should never answer the door or telephone. If you allow older children to do so, give them proper instruction and guidance.
- Children should know how to quickly contact you in the event of an emergency.
- Give your children an alternate emergency contact number in case you are not available. They should know who else to contact in your absence.
- Teach your children when to use **911. DO NOT PLAY ON THE PHONE!**
- Teach your children to report any crimes or suspicious activities to you, to school authorities, or to the police.
- You should know where your children are at all times; where they are going, and with whom. Young children should never be allowed to play outside unsupervised.
- Teach your children the safest routes for walking in your neighborhood; and to know the best places to obtain help if needed.
- Teach your children not to play in alleys or vacant buildings or houses.



**Remember!!! Tell your children to let you know when they are not feeling safe with someone. Teach them what is appropriate touching and what is not. Listen to them!!!**

## INTERNET SAFETY



- ⇒ Give children guidelines on computer usage.
- ⇒ Set parental controls.
- ⇒ Parents should take an Internet Safety class.
- ⇒ For more on internet safety go to [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com) or <http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>



# BICYCLES, “LOW-POWERED SCOOTERS”

## **BASIC PROTECTION and SAFETY**

- Keep a written record of your bike’s serial number, make, model, and color. Register your bicycle:  
<http://www.denvergov.org/neighborhoodwatch>
- Always lock your bike or place in a secured area when not in use. Ask community school and recreation authorities if they could provide secure racks where bicycles are safe and can be observed.
- To avoid personal injury:
  - Practice good bike safety and follow all traffic rules
  - Always wear a properly fitted helmet.



**If someone tries to steal your bicycle while you are on it, do not resist.  
It is not worth being injured. Call the police immediately!**

### **RMC 54-578 - Bicycle Riding at Night (*including electrical assisted bicycles*):**

- Bicycles must be equipped with a lamp on the front emitting a white light visible from 500 feet.
- Bicycles must be equipped with an approved red reflector, visible from 600 feet to the rear.
- Bicycles must be equipped on both sides with sufficient reflective material visible from 600 feet or lighted lamps visible from 600 feet.

### **Traffic Laws Apply to Bicycles and “Low-powered Scooters”:**

Per Denver Revised Municipal Code (RMC 54-565), every person riding a bicycle or electrical assisted bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all the rights and shall be subjected to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the traffic rules and regulations of the City and County of Denver applicable to the driver of a vehicle, *except as to the provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature can have no application.*

In addition, every person riding a “low-powered scooter” is subject to the laws applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle. Per C.R.S. 42-2-102(58), a “low-powered scooter” is defined as a vehicle with less than 4 wheels, not exceeding 50cc (6HP), or 4476 watts of electricity with an automatic transmission which is designed for primary use on a roadway. They may only be operated at a maximum speed of 40 mph. Operators of low-powered scooters are required by C.R.S. 42-2-103 to possess a valid driver’s license and liability insurance.



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## POLICE CONTACTS

*Being stopped by a police officer can be intimidating and confusing. There are many reasons why a police officer may stop and talk to you. By knowing how to act, you can help to make the encounter safe for you and for the officer.*

### **If you are contacted while driving:**

- If an officer indicates you should stop your vehicle, slow down and carefully pull over to the right side of the roadway when it is safe to do so.
- Roll your window down and stay in the vehicle with your hands visible on the steering wheel.
- Do not immediately reach into your coat, glove compartment, or under your seat for items.
- When the officer asks for your driver's license, proof of insurance, and registration, tell the officer where they are before reaching for them.
- It is common for the officer to wait until he has obtained your proper identification before telling you why you were stopped.
- Do not leave the traffic stop until the officer says that you may.
- It is important to understand and be aware that under certain circumstances, when an officer has reasonable suspicion to believe there are weapons, drugs, or any illegal items in your vehicle he/she can search for them.



### **If you are contacted while on foot:**

- Stop and stand still. **Do not** put your hands into the pockets of your clothing.
- Do not** walk or run away.
- The officer may ask for your identification and a reason for your actions.
- Tell the officer where the identification is and that you are going to reach for it.
- Answer all questions truthfully and respectfully.
- Remain where you are until the officer completes his questions. You will be free to go, unless the officer has reason to detain you further.
- You are entitled to be informed of the officer's name, badge number and the reason you have been stopped. Ask for a business card and the officer will provide it to you, if available.



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME



## ***YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR HOME BURGLAR-PROOF!***

*In taking steps to protect your home and its contents, bear in mind that no home can be protected like Fort Knox. No amount of locks, bars, lights, or bells can guarantee total protection.*

## ***YOU CAN MAKE YOUR HOME BURGLAR-RESISTANT!***

Most burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Residential burglars want to gain entry fast, move quickly while inside, and then get out. Once inside, they know all of the usual hiding places. Make sure you have your valuables in a secure and unique hiding place. Burglars often work with a partner. Your unprotected home can be stripped of most of your valuables in three to five minutes, from approach to departure. The more you do, to keep your home from being an easy target, the safer it will be. Start by making it as difficult as possible for an intruder to make a quick and quiet entry. The more obstacles you place in their path, the less the chance of a successful break-in.



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

- Make sure your window-wells are secured.
- Maintain adequate exterior lighting around your house and your yard; especially around vulnerable access points to your home.
- Install a timer to turn lights, stereo, and televisions on and off while you're away.
- Security/screen doors and frames help to keep burglars from kicking in doors.
- Get an anti-slide block for your sliding glass door and windows.
- Don't leave ladders around the exterior of your house where they can be used by a burglar to gain entrance.
- Don't leave valuables such as lawnmowers, bicycles, or tools in an open or unlocked garage or shed. **Your tools could be used to break into your home.**
- Keep garage door and side service doors closed and locked at all times. The door leading from the garage to the house is a favorite access point for burglars.
- House numbers should be clearly visible from the street and well illuminated. This will help the police and other first responders to find your house quickly in case of an emergency.
- Shrubbery should never block the view of your doors or windows. An intruder may hide behind the shrubbery while trying to gain entrance to your home.
- Nameplates on your door or mailbox should have last name only. Do not indicate your sex or marital status.
- Urge your neighbors to follow these tips, as you may be calling on their behalf or vice versa.



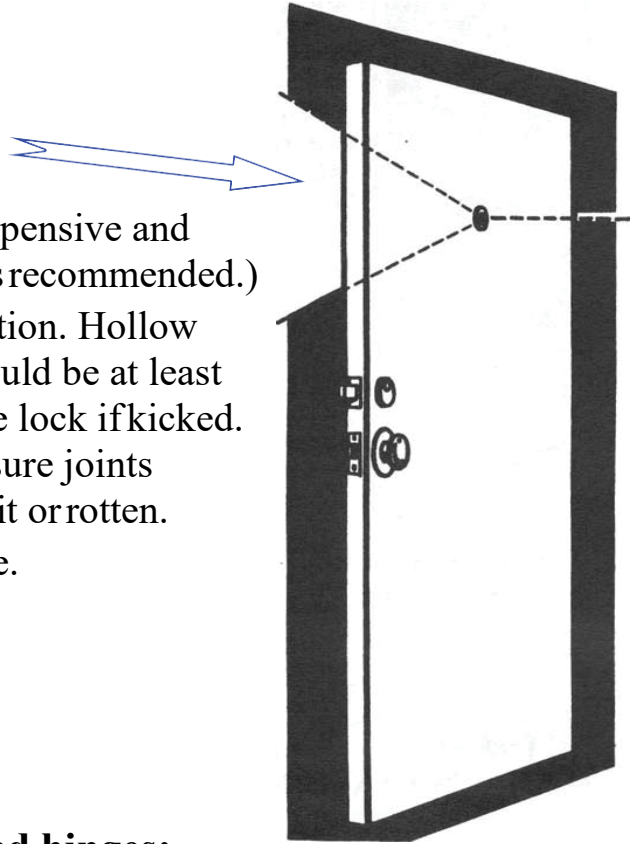
# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

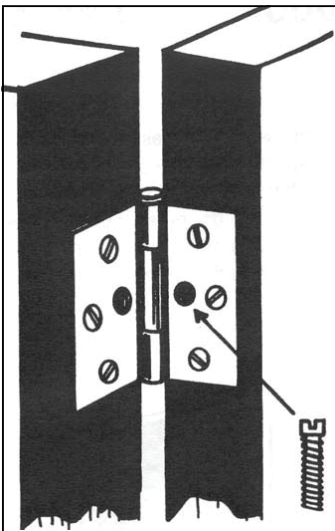
### SECURING YOUR DOORS

#### Doors:

- A wide angle viewer in the door lets you see your visitor before you open the door. It is inexpensive and easy to install. (A minimum 180 degree view is recommended.)
- Exterior doors should be of solid core construction. Hollow core doors are *not* adequate. Exterior doors should be at least 1¾ inches thick. A thinner door may give at the lock if kicked. Wood panel doors should be checked to make sure joints haven't become unglued and panels are not split or rotten.
- Do not rely on a chain latch as a security device.



#### Protect a door from being lifted from exposed hinges:



Step 1 — Remove two screws, opposite each other, from both leaves of the hinges.

Step 2 — Insert a screw or concrete nail into jamb leaf protruding ½ inch.

Step 3 — Drill out the opposite screw hole in door. Do this in the top and bottom hinge. When closed, the pins may be removed. The door will remain firmly in place.



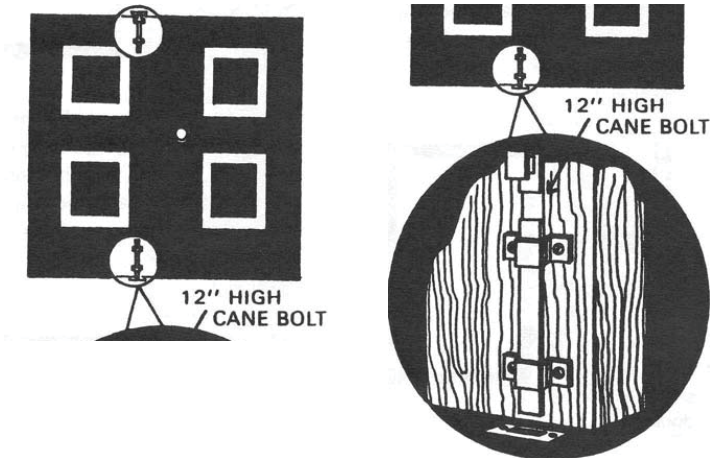


# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

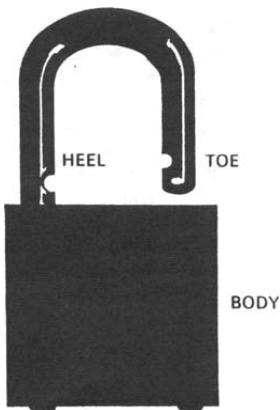
## SECURING YOUR DOORS

### Double Doors:

The inactive door can be adequately secured by installing cane bolts, 1/2" diameter x 12" long, on both top and bottom of door.



### Garage Doors:



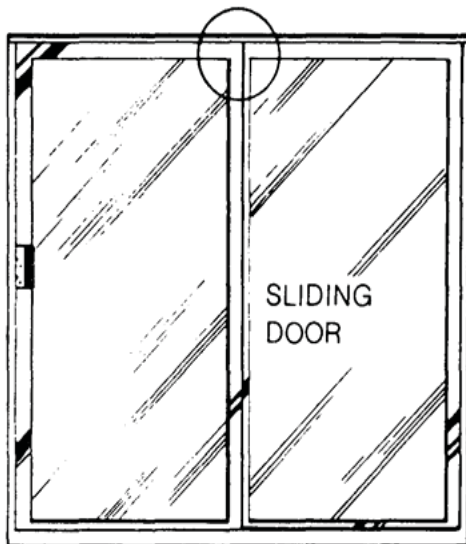
- To secure your garage door, use a good, case-hardened padlock in which both ends of the shackle engage.
- If the garage door rolls on tracks, you can drill a hole in the track so that the padlock can be utilized as a brace. Steel pins can also be used.
- Electronic garage door openers with automatic locking devices offer good security.
- The door leading from a garage to the house is a common access point for burglars. It hides the burglar and provides easy access to items stored in the garage. Ideally, it should be of solid wood core construction, with a quality deadbolt lock.



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

## SECURING YOUR DOORS

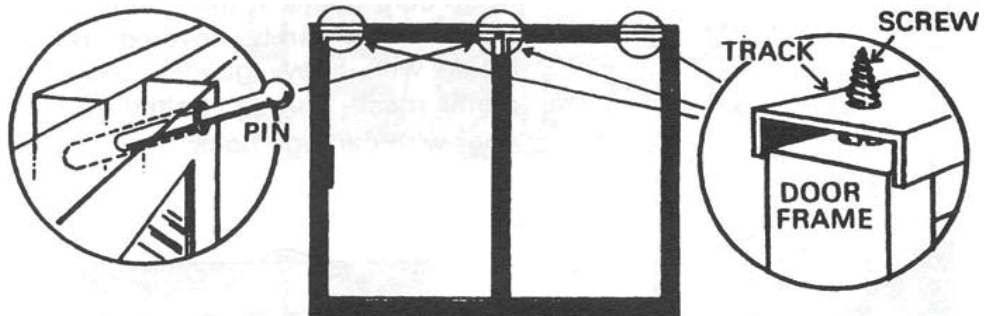
### Sliding Glass Doors:



Sliding glass doors are particularly easy targets for the burglar and are frequent points of entry. They are usually equipped with locks that can easily be pried open. In addition, sliding doors can be easily removed from their tracks if they are not properly secured.

To prevent removal of doors, install 1 1/4" pan head (large head) sheet metal screws in upper track at both ends and the middle so frame just clears the head of the screws. To secure a door in position, you can also drill a hole at a downward angle in the overlapping frames of the door at the top center. Then insert a steel pin or a heavy nail.

There are different types of sliding glass door auxiliary locks that can be used but key operated locks usually offer the best security—especially those using a deadbolt or pin mechanism.



A metal bar that attaches to the side frame and fits across the middle of the sliding door, running parallel to the floor, can be used to prevent opening of the door. This may be used as a minimum-security method when no one is home.

**Consult a professional if you are not certain that you can do this properly.**



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

## Securing Your Home With Locks:

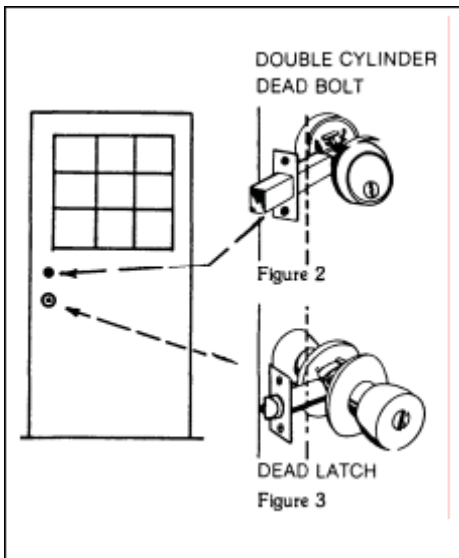
SPRING LATCH LOCK – DEAD LATCH LOCK — KEY-IN-KNOB



(These locks do not offer adequate security.)

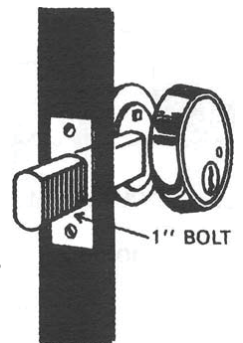
A single cylinder deadbolt lock should be mounted on a solid wood core door when there is no breakable glass within 40 inches of the interior locking mechanism. The single cylinder deadbolt lock has a thumb turn piece on the inside.

**Consult a professional if you are not certain that you can install this properly.**



### DOUBLE CYLINDER DEADBOLT LOCK:

Install **double cylinder deadbolt** (Figure 2) — 1” deadbolt and double cylinders with hardened cylinder guards. This lock must be used if glass is within 40” of the locking device. A single cylinder deadbolt may be used if there is no glass within 40” of the locking hardware.

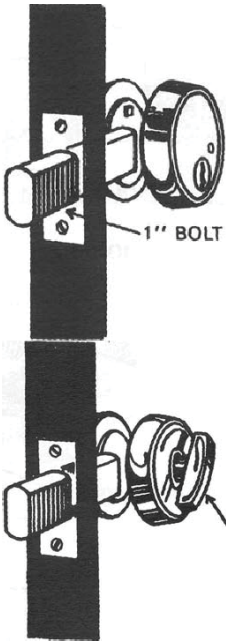


**If the double cylinder deadbolt is locked when the house is occupied, a key should be left in the inside keyhole as a means of fast exit in case of fire. Always remove the key when leaving home.**



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

Both single and double cylinder deadbolt locks should meet these basic criteria to be a good security device:



1. The bolt must extend a minimum of 1" and be case hardened or contain a hardened insert.
2. The cylinder guard must be tapered or spherical in design to make it difficult to grip with pliers or a wrench. It must be made of solid metal-not a hollow casting or stamped metal-and preferably be able to turn freely.
3. The connecting screws that hold the lock together must both be on the inside. There must be no exposed screw heads on the exterior of the door.
4. The connecting screws must be at least 1/4" in diameter and screw into solid metal stock-not screw posts.

**Consult a professional if you are not certain that you can do this properly.**

When shopping for locks, you may wish to take the aforementioned diagrams and description to a locksmith or hardware store to be sure the lock you buy meets all of the requirements.

**REMEMBER!!! Do not allow children to open the door to strangers!**



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

## SECURING YOUR WINDOWS

Windows pose a security problem. Entry can be made by breaking the glass, rather than by forcing the window and causing the alarm to be activated.

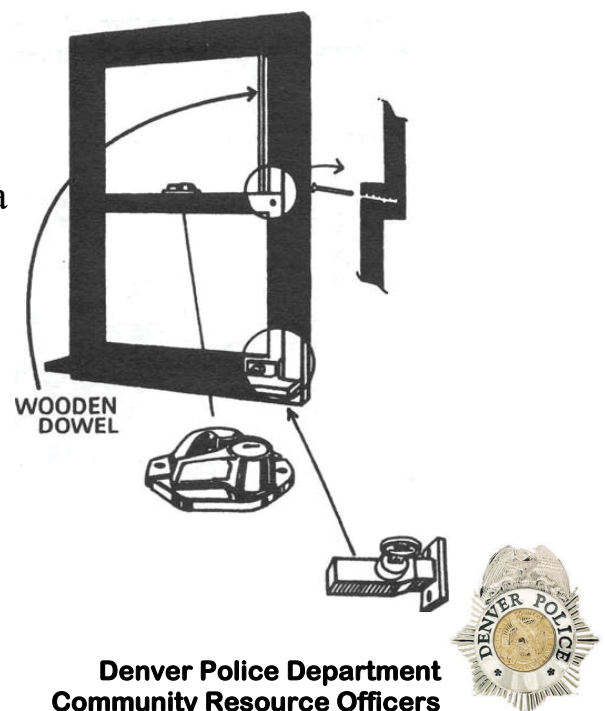
First floor windows are most vulnerable to attack. One way to protect windows is by using unbreakable, transparent polycarbonate materials which look like glass but are very difficult to break. This material is quite expensive. Other ways to protect windows is to install burglar bars or storm windows, that not only offer a level of burglar protection—but also conserve energy. Be sure to check with your local Fire Department to ensure the storm windows you choose are permitted by code. The primary goal is to prevent burglars from prying open windows. Most burglars avoid breaking glass due to fear of attracting attention.

***WARNING:*** A bedroom window on the ground and second floors must be left available as a fire exit. A bedroom window may often be the quickest and safest means of escape if fire occurs at night.

### Double Hung Windows:

The latches on many double hung windows can be easily jimmied or pried open. This type of window can be easily and inexpensively made secure.

The window can be pinned by drilling a hole at a slight downward angle through the first sash, and into (but not through) the second sash. The window can then be pinned with a strong nail. Additional holes may be drilled for pinning the window in a slightly open position for ventilation.



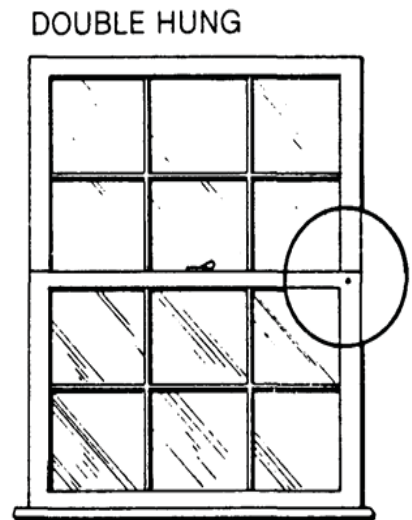
# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

### SECURING YOUR WINDOWS

#### **More on Double Hung Windows:**

- Several types of keyed locks which offer effective protection are available for double hung windows. They are inexpensive and easy to install.
- The thumb turn locks in the center of most double hung windows offer very little security.
- A stick or wood dowel can be securely wedged between the top and bottom portions of the window. The stick can be secured to the inside of the window frame with pieces of hook and loop material. In this way, the stick can be shortened to allow for window ventilation.
- **REMEMBER!!!** Master key all of your window locks for convenience and train responsible family members in their use. Keep keys located close by for ease of escape in the event of a fire or another emergency.



### **Don't hide keys under a mat or over the doorsill!**



#### **Awning Type Windows:**

Awning type windows are difficult to secure. The removal of the inside operator handle adds some security, but keep the handle handy in case of emergency. Awning windows should be tightly closed to enhance security.

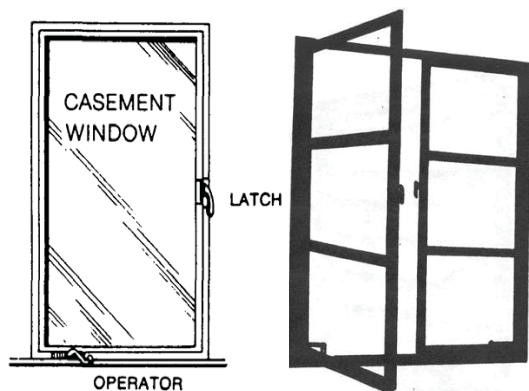
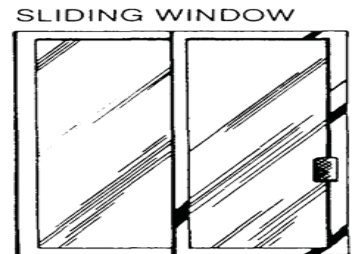


# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

## SECURING YOUR WINDOWS

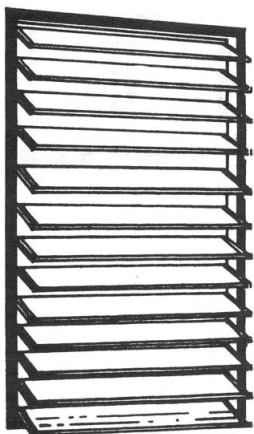
### **Sliding Glass Windows:**

Sliding glass windows can be secured in the same manner as sliding glass doors. Pins through the frame, screws in the track or keyed locks can all be used. Many inexpensive auxiliary locks are available.



### **Casement Windows:**

Casement windows provide good security. Keyed locks are also available for this type of window for additional security. Make sure the latch works properly and the operator handle has no excess play. Replace worn hardware. For added security, simply remove the operation crank from all windows and keep one in a safe place in each room for “your” use.



### **Louver or Jalousie Windows:**

Jalousie windows are a very high security risk and should be replaced if at all possible. These windows are nearly impossible to secure. They can be secured by installing metal grating on the inside of the window area with a quick release feature. In the event of fire. At a comparable cost to installing grating, the windows can be replaced with another type which offers better security. Remove and replace them with solid glass or another type of ventilating window with a grate or grille (except for bedrooms).

**Home Safety Reminder:** Require identification from all repair and delivery personnel. If in doubt, check the authenticity of the identification by calling the company before letting the person into your home. Carefully check their I.D. through the peephole viewer, or locked security door.



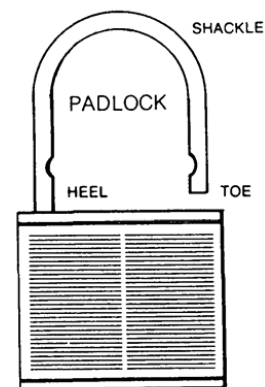
# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

### PADLOCKS AND HASPS

#### **Padlocks:**

Padlocks should be of case hardened steel construction with a minimum 9/32" shackle. The lock should have a double locking mechanism on both the heel and toe of the shackle. It should be of heavy body construction with a minimum five pin tumbler.



#### **Case Hardened Steel Padlock:**

The bottom end of the padlock may have a key number stamped on it. This number should be obliterated and recorded elsewhere to eliminate the possibility of unauthorized key duplication. Do not economize on a padlock that will not give you the protection you need. The most common assault on a padlock is with a large bolt cutter or pry bar.

The following description is the minimum standard for an exterior padlock:

- Hardened steel, 9/32- inch shackle. (Naturally, heavier shackles offer additional security.)
- Double locking mechanism-heel and toe.
- Five-pin tumbler.
- A key retaining feature, whenever possible. This prevents your removing the key until you have locked the padlock.

**NOTE: Never leave your padlock unlocked. This is an invitation to have the padlock removed so that a key can be made, and the lock returned to its position. Later the burglar returns when no one is home and enters at his leisure, using his key.**





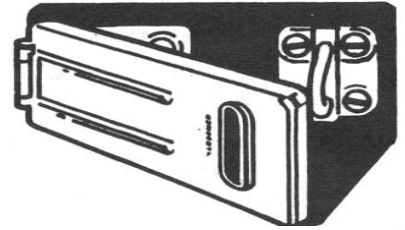
# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

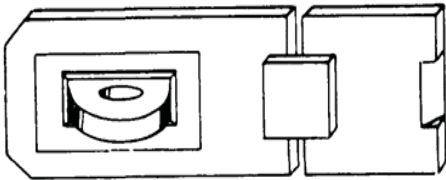
### PADLOCKS AND HASPS

#### **Hasps:**

The hasp should be as strong as the lock and have no screws or bolts visible when secured. Screws which hold the hasp in place should be as long as the material holding them will allow. If installed on metal, carriage bolts with large washers should be used to prevent prying of the hasp. These



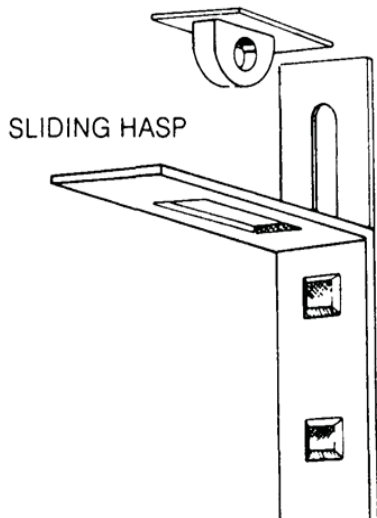
HINGING HASP



must be of hardened steel and installed with carriage bolts through the door or gate. Use large washers on the inside. After the nuts are secured, deface the threads of the bolt ends with a hammer to keep the nuts from being removed.

#### **Hasps in the Garage:**

Always keep garage doors closed and locked. Intruders may seek entrance through the garage, burglarize the garage, or even use tools stored in your garage to break into your home. Keep tools in a locked location. The single lock on the garage door is not enough to keep intruders from prying up the opposite side and crawling in.



SLIDING HASP

#### **Secure your garage door by:**

- Adding another bolt and padlock to the opposite side.
- Installing a pair of cane bolts to the inside. (These operate only from the inside).
- Add a top center sliding hasp, as illustrated. Any person of average height can operate this device.
- Cover garage windows, so a burglar cannot see whether or not the garage is empty.
- Display your house number on your garage door or backyard fence. This will help police locate your house quickly when responding to a call.



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME WITH ALARMSYSTEMS

A home alarm is a system that can alert you to potential threats against your home by trespassers, burglars, and other kinds of dangers. Many people choose to enhance the security of their home to keep their belongings safe. This is usually done by adding one of the many alarm systems that are available; and there are several different types of home alarm systems to choose from. However, they are all designed to serve just one purpose; and that is to protect your home and property. *(By Law, companies are required to give you proper instructions on how to use your alarm system.)*

**Reminder!!!** Dogs are great pets and family members. They are also great companions and may be helpful in alerting you to danger. However, for security and for your pet's safety, an alarm system should be considered as the main deterrent to protect your home.



### Two Main Types of Alarms:



1. A popular type of home alarm system is an unmonitored system. When the alarm has been set, a code needs to be entered to deactivate it. If the code is not entered within a set amount of time, the alarm will sound. It makes a loud audible noise both inside and outside of the house when triggered. This type of alarm system may also include flashing lights which alerts neighbors to where the alarm is coming from. It is popular since there are no monitoring fees to pay. In addition, it is designed to frighten intruders away from your property when the alarm begins to sound. A burglar's goal is to get in and get out as quickly as possible without being noticed; and that is unlikely once the alarm has been tripped. This is usually sufficient to deter an intruder. The disadvantage of this type of system is that your neighbors must be home and willing to get involved by calling the police.



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME WITH ALARMSYSTEMS

### Two Main Types of Alarms:

2. There is also a **monitored alarm**. A monitored alarm is connected to a remote monitoring center. It alerts a central call center if an alarm has been triggered. The call center then contacts the homeowner.

Since the call center is alerted of an alarm through the phone wires, a clever burglar may be able to locate the outdoor phone wires and cut them. By doing this, the call center is never alerted, and the burglar is free to enter the home. If you do not answer, or the person who answers does not give the code, then the police will be sent to the address.

Once an alarm has been set off, the security company usually waits for 30 to 45 seconds before contacting the homeowner to allow the homeowner time to deactivate the alarm—if it was a false alarm. If the monitoring company does not receive the correct password or the phone is not answered, then the company will contact the police or a third party.



An experienced thief could easily make off with many valuables in the few minutes it takes for the police to actually arrive.

**Research the different systems and determine what will work best to keep your property safe.**

Visit [www.denvergov.org/alarmpermits](http://www.denvergov.org/alarmpermits) for more information on alarm permits and false alarm penalties.



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME WITH ALARM SYSTEMS

### Other popular types of home alarms include:

- Motion detectors can be used in addition to monitored and unmonitored systems. Sensors that use ultrasonic or infrared rays to detect any movement can be placed in certain areas in your home.
- Panic buttons are devices that can be manually activated if you detect or suspect an intruder. They can be placed near beds or doorways. There are also wireless devices available that can be worn on the body.
- CCTV monitoring systems can provide crucial details. Video cameras are placed in various locations on your property that constantly record what is happening in those areas. Video footage can be viewed, and become very helpful in the identification and prosecution of criminals who invade your home.
- Magnetic reed switches can be placed on doors and/or windows. They can be helpful in places where your property is vulnerable or in need of additional protection. They will alert when a door or window is opened; thus potentially deterring an intruder from entering your property.



### Choose a Reputable Company:

Make sure you deal with an established firm with a proven history of service and performance. It is always advisable to obtain two or three bids from different companies to ensure a competitive bid and greater exposure to the variety of alarm systems available.

*The Denver Police Department **Does Not**  
Recommend or Endorse Particular Alarm Companies.*



# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME WITH ALARMSYSTEMS

### Check the quality of the system:

#### Things To Watch For:

- The complete system should operate on house current and/or back-up battery supplied current.
- The system should have some monitoring device to alert the homeowner if any malfunction occurs prior to operation.
- Alarm systems need to be properly installed, programmed, and maintained.
- Alarm systems need to have an audible horn or bell to be effective.
- The audible alarm feature of the system should be heard in any part of the protected premises, and loud enough to alert neighbors and/or passers-by.
- Consider instructing a trusted neighbor or friend on how to respond to an alarm bell.
- Be aware that animals, hanging objects, moving curtains, balloons, etc., can activate motion sensors.
- Temporary losses of power, such as blackouts, which cause the system to change over to battery power, should not trigger an audible alarm.
- External alarm components should not be accessible to intruders.

### **DON'T FORGET ABOUT FIRE & CARBON MONOXIDE!!!!**

#### Alarms are not only needed for intruders:

When deciding on a security system, consider what fire alarm and carbon monoxide (CO) components might work best in your home. Smoke alarms are a must for every home. In most newly built homes, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are mandatory; however, it is recommended that all homes, newer and older, have them installed.

Commonly known as *the silent killer*, carbon monoxide is an invisible and odorless poisonous gas produced by fuel-burning equipment and appliances in the home. CO alarms provide early detection of this dangerous gas before it becomes life threatening and are critical to preventing accidental CO poisoning injuries and deaths.



# DENVER POLICE PRECINCT MAPS

The Denver Police Department's Patrol Division is responsible for routine patrol in your neighborhood. The Patrol Division is divided into six districts. Each district has its own District Commander who reports to the Deputy Chief of Operations.

- District 1 – Northwest Denver
- District 2 – Northeast / Central Denver
- District 3 – Southeast Denver
- District 4 – Southwest Denver
- District 5 – Northeast Denver
- District 6 – Central Denver & Downtown
- DIA (759) is not a District - However, there are DPD Officers permanently assigned to the Airport.

On the following page you will find a map of the Denver Police Department District boundaries. For more detailed information, please refer to the City Website:

<http://www.denvergov.org/denvermaps/>

## DENVER POLICE DISTRICT LISTINGS

### DISTRICT ONE

1131 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Ave., 80211  
720-913-0400  
TDD 720-913-0404



### DISTRICT TWO

3921 Holly St., 80207  
720-913-1000  
TDD 720-913-1149



### DISTRICT THREE

1625 S. University Blvd., 80210  
720-913-1300  
TDD 720-913-1196



### DISTRICT FOUR

2100 S. Clay St., 80219  
720-913-0200  
TDD 720-913-0214



### DISTRICT FIVE

4685 Peoria St., 80239  
720-913-1400  
TDD 720-913-1406



### DISTRICT SIX

1566 Washington St., 80203  
720-913-2800  
TDD 720-913-2805





**Preventing crime in Denver is a team effort and requires participation from our officers and the citizens in our community. By working together, we can make Denver one of the safest cities in the world.**

## **WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:**

- Be an active part of your Neighborhood Watch group
- Attend a Denver Police Department Citizens' Academy to learn more about how our department works
- Follow the Denver Police Department on our social media sites to get the latest information (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube)
- Contact your district station and ask to be added to the distribution list for news and upcoming events
- Consider joining our Volunteers in Policing Program
- Visit [www.denvergov.jobs](http://www.denvergov.jobs) for more information on how you can apply to be part of our department

