



The 10 Principles of Crime Prevention

Whether you are thinking about securing your home, car, motorcycle, boat, garage or other personal property, use the 10 Principles listed below as a checklist. Think of your survey as peeling through the layers of an onion. Start at the perimeter of the premises/property and work your way in to the centre, considering all 10 principles at each layer. The best way to approach this is to look at your home or business as if you were the criminal. Identify the weak spots and vulnerable areas and then prioritise the areas that need to be improved. However, before you undertake any improvements, contact our Crime Prevention officers and they will work with you to ensure you are taking the best approach.

Remember, our Crime Prevention advice is FREE !!!!!

Is your home or business fitted with layered security?

TARGET
SHELL
PERIMETER
ENVIRONMENT

OPERATION GIBWATCH

Contact the RGP's Crime Prevention & Reduction Unit for further information and free advice on 20048039 or cpru@royalgib.police.gi

Royal Gibraltar POLICE
Working Together to make Our Community Safer

1. Target Hardening

"Making targets more resistant to attack or more difficult to remove or damage."

A **target** is anything that a criminal would want to steal or damage. It could be an object, property, person or in some cases an animal, such as a valuable pet.

Here are some examples of "Target Hardening."



- Fitting better doors, windows or shutters
- Window or Door locks
- Alarms
- Screens in banks, Government buildings, etc
- Fencing systems
- Repairing damaged and derelict property
- Fitting a wheel lock to a vehicle, chain to a bicycle/motorcycle, etc.

2. Target Removal

"Permanent or temporary removal of vulnerable persons or property".

Quite simply, this means making sure that any object which a potential criminal might be interested in is not visible.

Examples include:

- Removing radio/Sat Nav from parked cars
- Keeping car keys out of sight, inside a pocket or drawer
- Placing valuable items in a secure location
- Removing jewellery/valuables from shop windows at night
- Moving small vulnerable items nearer to cash tills in shops
- Re-housing vulnerable people.



3. Removing the means to commit crime

"Making sure that material capable of being used to help a criminal commit a crime is not accessible."

Whilst Principles 1 & 2 above aim to reduce the risks directly associated with the target, removing the means to commit crime looks at the problem from a different perspective.

Look at this photograph

What could be changed to reduce the chance of a crime taking place?

The ladder provides easy access to the open window. Removing such items after cleaning, painting or similar work would remove the means to commit crime. Think about how many times you have seen ladders or large “wheelie” bins in the proximity of commercial premises or even residences. These can easily be used as platforms. To remove this threat, they could be chained or locked up so that they cannot be moved.



Other examples of removing the means to commit crime are:

- Locking up tools and similar equipment.
- Securing building materials such as scaffolding
- Using plastic drinking glasses in venues where there is a history or possibility of violence

4. Reducing the Payoff

"Reducing the gain for the criminal if a crime is committed"

Examples of this include:

- Using a safe to reduce the amount of cash held in a till
- Using a replica in shop displays
- Property marking to make items identifiable and therefore less valuable to a criminal.



Bear in mind that even though adequate insurance will not reduce the gain to the criminal, it will reduce the loss to the individual or organisation.

5. Access Control

"Restricting access to sites, buildings or parts of sites and buildings."

There are many forms of "Access Control." Whilst some can be quite complex, others are relatively simple.

Examples include:

- Door locks (and making sure doors are shut)
- Identity cards
- Entry card systems
- Entry phones (Intercom)
- Baggage Screening
- Separate entries and exits
- Combination locks.



6. Visibility / Surveillance

"Making sure criminals would be visible if they carried out a crime."

Unlike any of the other principles, there are 3 types of surveillance, these are:

- **Natural**
- **Formal**
- **Informal.**

In common with the other principles, there are various methods and techniques that can be applied.

Natural surveillance - Involves modifying the existing surroundings to increase visibility.

It can include:

- Pruning or removing shrubbery
- Improving or installing lighting
- Changing the height of fences
- Placing a playground area so that it overlooks nearby homes (and is overlooked by those homes).



Formal surveillance - Uses technology or specialist staff who are employed or tasked to deter and identify actual or potential offenders.

Formal surveillance methods include:

- Deploying police and security staff
- Store security guards
- Alarm systems
- Caretakers tasked with a security role
- CCTV systems.



Some formal surveillance systems operate on a small scale, for example those within individual shops and premises; on the other hand, larger scale systems include CCTV systems located within town centres and other public areas.



Informal / Employee Surveillance

This involves residents, employees and the community being encouraged to be vigilant and knowing what to do when they see a potential risk. For example, receptionists, counter staff and office staff can be trained to spot potential problems. Procedures should be put in place to advise individuals or staff what to do if they see anything suspicious.

7. Environmental Design

"Changing the environment of a building, a site, an estate or a town to reduce opportunities for committing crime."

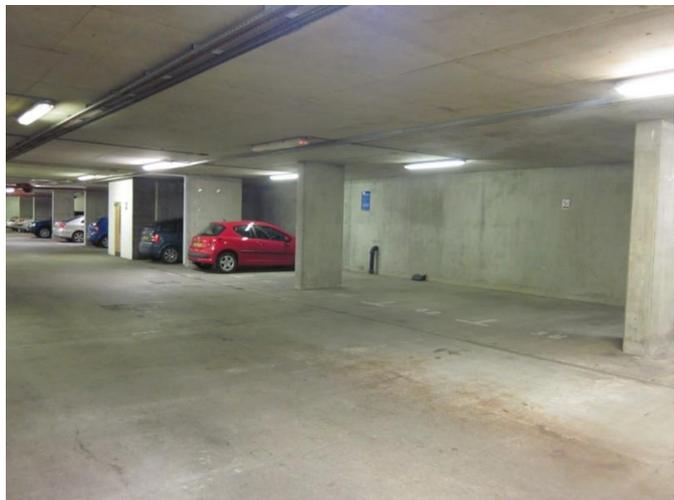
The emphasis is on putting a range of preventive measures in place at the planning stage of a development, irrespective of whether this is of a commercial or residential nature. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) can be used in existing environments as well as in new developments.

It can include a whole range of features such as:

- Visibility/Surveillance
- Target Hardening
- Street and pathway layout
- Lighting.

Incorporating crime prevention measures into a new housing development at the planning stage could ensure that:

- All doors and windows have good quality locks.
- Planting is kept to a minimum to increase surveillance.
- The estate has an open design which also increases surveillance.
- **Parking spaces are covered by either/both CCTV or other residences, deterring possible offences by providing natural surveillance of vehicles.**
- There is good street/perimeter lighting as well as adequate lighting at entrances to buildings, common areas/landings.



8. Rule Setting

"The introduction of legislation and codes of conduct which set out what is acceptable behaviour."

The following are some examples of rule setting:

- Laws enacted by Parliament.
- Wearing of ID badges/Visitor Passes.
- Internal rules within businesses.
- The limiting of alcohol consumption in public places.
- Signs prohibiting access to buildings or certain areas in buildings.
- Requests to report to a reception.



9. Increasing the chance of being caught

"Anything that slows a criminal down or increases their risk of being caught."

Preventive methods are more effective if criminals risk being caught. Anything that slows down a criminal or increases the chance of detection is an effective method of prevention. This means that good "Target Hardening" increases the time it takes to enter a building and increases the chances of being spotted. The longer it takes to commit an offence, the more vulnerable a criminal will feel.

Increasing the chance of a criminal being caught can be achieved by:

- Proper management of CCTV systems
- Lighting that makes intruders/criminals more visible
- Making sure security equipment operates properly
- **Alerting offenders to the fact that CCTV systems and alarms are being used**
- Publicising successes in detecting criminals



10. Deflecting Offenders

"Diverting the offenders and potential offenders from committing crime."

This involves agencies working with young people and offenders to influence standards, thinking and attitudes. The aim is to prevent potential offenders turning to crime.

Examples include:

- Education programmes & schools programmes
- Youth groups and organisations
- Providing training and work experience.

This method of preventing crime is undertaken by Neighbourhood Policing Teams, School Liaison Officers and Crime Prevention officers, working in partnership with Government agencies, tenants' associations, schools and sporting associations, amongst others.

