



OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA

*Working together for a safer community
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe*

Neighbourhood Watch

How to **get involved**



ottawapolice.ca

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is a program to help neighbours watch out for neighbours. It aims to get citizens involved in discouraging and preventing crime at the local level. The ultimate success of Neighbourhood Watch depends largely on a commitment to cooperate between area residents and the police — and more importantly, between residents themselves.

How does it work?

The program thrives on mutual aid. Your neighbours know who you are, what type of car you drive, and may be the first to notice a suspicious person at your door or window. A police officer patrolling your community may not recognize a stranger in your yard — but your neighbour will. The Neighbourhood Watch program builds on these facts. By simply getting to know the neighbours around you, you'll be well positioned to recognize someone or something that's suspicious.

When neighbours work together, they can combat crime in their area the most effective way — before it starts. Neighbourhood Watch encourages active participation in crime prevention. As part of the Program, you can learn:

- how to make your home less inviting as a target for thieves;
- how to participate in Operation Identification, an engraving program to mark your valuables; and
- how to recognize and report suspicious activity in your neighbourhood.

Getting Involved in Neighbourhood Watch

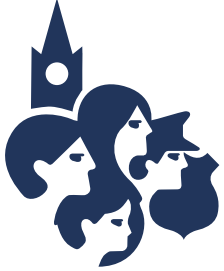
To get involved in an existing Neighbourhood Watch in your area, or if you're interested in starting a Watch for your area, contact your local Community Police Centre. Police Centre personnel can provide you with more detailed information, basic start-up assistance and resources.

See the “Red Pages” in the Ottawa telephone directory or visit the Police Web site at ottawapolice.ca/neighbourhoodwatch for a full list of Ottawa Police services and contact information.



Basic Safety Tips

Following these basic safety tips provides a good start for safeguarding you and your family. Contact your local Community Police Centre or visit the police Web site at ottawapolice.ca for additional crime prevention tips and information about Neighbourhood Watch.



Protect yourself...

- Ensure your home is well lit and has good locks (sign up for a free home security inspection at your Community Police Centre).
- Always secure all doors and windows when your home is unoccupied.
- Join Operation Identification (contact your Community Police Centre to borrow an engraver to mark your property).
- Get to know your neighbours.

Get to Know Your Neighbours

If everyone in your area got to know their immediate neighbours — on each side, to the front and at the back — it would go a long way toward making your neighbourhood safer. Do your part, and get to know your neighbour.

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Working together for a safer community

If you're going away...

- Leave the following information with a trusted neighbour:
 - where and how long you're going;
 - how you can be reached, in case of emergency; and
 - if anyone will be visiting your home (e.g., gardener, repair person).
- Ask that neighbour to pick up mail or newspapers, mow the lawn, or shovel the driveway, to make your house look lived-in.

Watch for...

- Suspicious persons or activities (e.g., unaccredited door-to-door salespeople, someone taking a "short cut" through your neighbour's backyard).
- Vehicles passing by many times, suspiciously parked or constantly travelling through alleyways.
- Obvious invitations to burglars (e.g., open garage doors, unlocked cars, the accumulation of newspapers on a vacationing neighbour's doorstep).


If you see something suspicious...

- Write down the description of any suspicious persons (e.g., complexion, body build, height, weight, age, type of clothing worn).
- Get the make, model, colour and license plate number of any suspicious vehicles.
- Notify police and other Watch Members of any suspicious persons or activity.
- Remember, if it's a crime in progress, don't put yourself in danger — call 9-1-1 immediately.

Make the Right Call

Every call is important, but not all calls are life-threatening, and not all calls are police emergencies. Whatever the case, we're here to help.

You have a role to play: "Make the Right Call."


9-1-1 

Life-threatening
emergency or
crime in progress

613-230-6211

Other emergencies

613-236-1222

TTY  **613-232-1123**

Community Police
Centres and all
other enquiries



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