

## MAKING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH A SUCCESS

Successful Neighborhood Watch organizations share four things in common:

1. **Communication.** Stay informed about the issues in your neighborhood.
2. **Leadership.** The Neighborhood Watch chairperson and block captains are active in the organization.
3. **Commitment.** Commitment to get involved and remain involved.
4. **Desire.** A desire to make a difference.

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

The more you know about your neighbors, the better your Neighborhood Watch will function. Get to know their:

- Names
- Addresses
- Makes, models and colors of vehicles
- Pets
- Medical conditions
- Emergency contacts
- Hours of work



## HOW TO REPORT AN INCIDENT

- Dial 911 or the police department's non-emergency number (773-7700).
- Tell the call taker what happened and the exact location of the occurrence.
- Provide a detailed description of individuals or vehicles.
- Remain on the phone and stay calm.
- Be prepared to answer follow-up questions. (You can ask to be contacted in person, or by phone for further information.)



**CRIMESTOPPERS ALLOWS  
CITIZENS TO REPORT CRIMINAL  
ACTIVITY WITHOUT GIVING  
THEIR NAME.**

**ENGLISH: 727-2800**

**EN ESPANOL: 728-3904**

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## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS from the Winston-Salem Police Department

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

*Reduce crime and improve the quality of life in your neighborhood.*



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a group of people living in the same area who work with the Police Department to make their neighborhood safer. Through coordination and cooperation with the police, Neighborhood Watch members learn non-intervention ways to deter crime and vandalism by staying alert to unusual activity and contacting the authorities.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:

- Organizes citizens in the fight against neighborhood crime.
- Builds community pride and unity.
- Improves communication between neighbors.
- Improves communication between neighborhood residents and police.
- Reduce crime.
- Improves the quality of life in the neighborhood.
- Promotes a sense of security, responsibility and personal control among neighbors.



## STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Detailed guidance on how to start a Neighborhood Watch program is available by going to the Police Department website ([www.wspd.org](http://www.wspd.org)) and clicking on the Crime Prevention link on the left. The basic steps are:

1. Find out if your neighbors are interested.
2. Find out the concerns of your neighborhood.
3. Determine the area your Neighborhood Watch will cover.
4. Conduct a Neighborhood Watch start-up meeting.

The Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Coordinator can answer questions and guide you through the process. Contact information for the coordinator is on the Neighborhood Watch page of the website.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is a national event for Neighborhood Watch groups and is held the first Tuesday in August. This is a night for Neighborhood Watch members to gather outside and grill out, hold pot-luck suppers, play games and show criminals that they have taken back their streets. Winston-Salem has an active National Night Out program that involves elected officials, city officials and the leadership of the Police Department. More information can be found at [www.nno.org](http://www.nno.org) and on the Police Department's Neighborhood Watch web page.



## EXAMPLES OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- One person going to a neighbor's back door while another waits in front.
- Someone forcing entry into an unoccupied building.
- Someone going door-to-door offering home-improvement services.
- The sound of breaking glass.
- A moving van pulling up to a home when the residents are not there.
- Different people entering and leaving an address throughout the day. This could be a sign of drug activity.



## REPORTING SUSPICIOUS PERSONS

Give police the following information to the best of your ability:

- Height
- Weight
- Sex
- Clothing description
- Direction of travel
- Race



## EXAMPLES OF SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES

- A vehicle that makes repeated trips through the neighborhood.
- A vehicle that drives slowly down the street.
- A vehicle that is occupied and parked in front of a home at an unusual hour.
- A vehicle abandoned on the street.



## REPORTING SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES

Give police the following information to the best of your ability:

- Make and model of the vehicle.
- Color of the vehicle.
- License number.
- Any damage on the vehicle or noise emitted from the vehicle.
- Direction of travel or location of vehicle.