



# CPTED: CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN



*“...a crime prevention philosophy based on the theory that proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, as well as an improvement in the quality of life.”*

–National Crime Prevention Institute

## LOCKS AREN'T ALWAYS THE ANSWER

Often, installing locks, bars, and gates do little to decrease crime. In fact, mechanical security devices can make your home feel like a fortress and decrease the quality of life in our city.

CPTED works by decreasing a criminal's ability to commit crime. It also increases the chances that a legitimate resident will see and report the crime as it occurs. CPTED goes beyond traditional security methods by naturally integrating security measures into the community.

*“The proper design and effective use of the built environment...will prevent crime and increase the quality of life.”*

## CPTED INCLUDES THE USE OF FOUR OVERLAPPING STRATEGIES

### ACCESS CONTROL

The design of an area to physically obstruct or guide access by people and vehicles. This strategy works by deterring access to potential targets of crime. If criminal behavior does occur, the access control makes it easy for legitimate residents to notice and report the crime to police. Examples include deadbolts, alarms, window locks, fences, turnstiles, speed bumps, and traffic signs.

### TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT

The design of an area to clearly show that someone owns the area. It suggests to criminals that a person is present who may see their criminal activity and report it to police. By enacting territorial

reinforcement strategies, residents are clearly stating, “This is not public property.” Examples include landscaping, lighting, walkways, decorative fencing, and signs.

### NATURAL SURVEILLANCE

The design of an area so as to allow visibility by legitimate residents. This strategy works because criminals will not commit crimes in areas where they feel exposed to observers. In the event a crime does occur, there is also greater chance that it will be witnessed and reported to police. Examples include windowed stairwells, parking lots visible from the sidewalk, and security lighting.

*“You can use maintenance by keeping your property clean, weed-free, and repaired.”*

### MAINTENANCE

The basic upkeep, repair, and maintenance of property. Neglected property can create mistreatment by residents, while maintained property will elicit proper treatment. This strategy directly impacts the fear of crime in a community due to

residents' perceptions of responsibility and caring for the neighborhood. Examples include the immediate removal of graffiti, landscape maintenance, weed abatement, and painting worn buildings.

*“You can use territorial reinforcement by placing a small decorative fence round your front yard to separate it from the sidewalk.”*

## WHAT CAN I DO?

**Anyone** can do CPTED. Apartment managers, homeowners, business owners, architects, renters, and community members can all make an effort to decrease the chance of crime in Dublin.

Using CPTED is as simple as enacting the strategies described in this brochure. **Any** effort in a home, business, or public place will have an effect on decreasing crime.

*“You can use natural surveillance by keeping your bushes trimmed lower than 36 inches and your trees trimmed higher than seven feet.”*

