

## Consider The “Nuts And Bolts” Of Security

The following are suggestions to provide a burglar-resistant environment for you and your employees:

- Utilize deadbolt locks with a minimum 1" throw bolt containing a hardened, saw-resistant steel insert on all exterior doors. If you choose double cylinder deadbolts, check with your local building inspector or fire department to see if these locks are permitted.
- Advertise the fact that you and your employees are security conscious.
- Have alarm and video systems serviced once a year. Make sure that your video system is capable of producing images that can be identified. Too many video systems show what happened, but are not capable of showing images that can be identified. Law enforcement agencies do not have the ability to make a bad image into a good one.

Make sure that your recording device is hidden and secured to prevent theft of the machine and the recording.

You want to take measures that would make a person want to go and victimize a different business.

Consider having your alarm system evaluated. You might want to consider such things a glass break alarms, or vibration sensor alarms that set the alarm off before entry is made. Most burglars know that once they are in they will have several minutes before police arrive.

The Oxnard Police Department encourages you to be a partner in public safety as part of the “*Operation Safer & Stronger*” initiative. Anyone with information regarding criminal activity should contact the Oxnard Police Department at (805) 385-7600 or 9-1-1.



## BUSINESS CRIME PREVENTION

# BURGLARY PREVENTION

*Crime and Violence Prevention Center •  
California Attorney General's Office*



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### Business Security

If you own or operate a business, make sure it is safe and secure. Your customers want to feel safe when they visit, and they are likely to return if their visit is positive. Law enforcement encourages businesses to subscribe to the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) concept as an easy way to ensure that their business is safe and secure.

#### What is the secret to CPTED?

It is the design and layout of the business that eliminates or reduces criminal behavior and at the same time encourages people to “keep an eye out” for each other. The National Crime Prevention Institute defines the purpose of CPTED as:

*“The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction of fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life.”* With this in mind, apply these CPTED principles to your business:

- Locate check-out counters near the front of the store, clearly visible from the outside so that employees can better watch all activities.

- Clearly mark public paths. Make private areas harder for non-employees to access.
- Use signs to direct patrons to parking and entrances.
- Prevent easy access to the roof or fire escape from the ground by trimming trees adjacent to the building. Secure roof access and fire escape ladders with locking covers.
- Provide rear access to shops if rear parking is offered.
- If possible, install rear windows to face parking areas for increased visibility.
- Do not cover up windows with advertising or display material.
- Use interior shelving and displays no higher than five feet, even lower in front of windows.
- Fully illuminate the exterior of the building and grounds at night.
- Design loading areas that avoid creating hiding places for people and merchandise.
- Maintain clear visibility from the store to the street, sidewalk, parking areas and passing vehicles.
- Place all entrances under visual surveillance.
- Consider installing an alarm system.

### Maintaining your property

This is an important part of your over-all security. A run-down business can attract criminals. Follow these simple suggestions to maintain a customer-friendly business:

- Keep buildings and walks clean and repaired.
- Maintain parking areas to a high standard without pot-holes or trash.
- Remove faded posters, broken signs, and other displays that are beyond their useful lives.
- Keep plants and all landscaping in good condition.

