

Protecting Self and Family

- Always buckle up and lock your car doors when driving.
- Never allow young children to venture off - keep them within a safe seeing and hearing distance.
- Watch your surroundings and be alert for suspicious persons or vehicles. Avoid wearing headphones when walking or jogging in public.
- When walking to your vehicle, always have your keys in hand and your cell phone easily accessible.
- Avoid using ATMs during night hours. Use the cash-back feature in grocery and convenient stores instead.
- Question kids and teens about their online and recreational activities, friends, and hang-out locations. Be sure to monitor closely.
- Drive to a police or fire station or an open place of business if you feel you are being followed.
- If you choose to own weapons, make sure they are stored in a locked safe and away from reach of children.
- If you get into an argument with a stranger, back-off, talk calmly and be smart about your actions. Do not escalate the situation and walk away.
- Domestic violence is a crime. Protect yourself and your family by reporting domestic violence immediately.

What can you do to get involved?

- Join a Neighborhood Watch group in your area and encourage your neighbors to do the same. Call (562) 567-9208 for more information.
- Get to know your neighbors and meet regularly to discuss your shared safety concerns with each other and police.



See up to date criminal activity in your neighborhood and sign up to receive daily crime alerts via email

Visit www.whittierpd.org



911 FOR ALL
EMERGENCIES AND
CRIMES IN PROGRESS

DON'T BE A VICTIM!



**Crime prevention tips
to help you protect
your home, vehicle,
identity, and family.**

**Whittier Police Department
(562) 567-9240 - Dispatch Center**

Preventing crime in the community is a shared responsibility among residents, businesses, and the police. Using the tips in this brochure regularly, could reduce your chances of becoming a crime victim and make our community safer.

Always report suspicious activity, persons, and vehicles to the Whittier Police Department Dispatch at (562) 567-9240

Protecting Your Home

- Always lock doors and windows when leaving your home. Even small bathroom windows need to be closed.
- Use window coverings to limit visual access into your home.
- Always create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and TVs. Making your residence appear occupied, even when no one is home, will deter criminals.
- Install and maintain lighting around the perimeter of your home.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances. They provide a hiding place for burglars who need only seconds to break in through a window or door.
- Install a home alarm system. Many inexpensive "do-it-yourself" alarm systems are now available online.
- If you can not afford an alarm system, purchase an alarm sign online and place it in front of your house.
- Use a lock to secure your side gate.

- Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers while you are away so delivered items do not accumulate. You can also ask a neighbor to park in your driveway or parking place to make it appear that you are present.
- Engrave your driver's license number on expensive items (computers, TVs etc.) This may deter burglars from taking such items and will help police in identifying your property if stolen.
- Never open the door if you do not recognize the person knocking. Just say "No thank you" so they know someone is home.
- Do not hide spare keys. Instead, leave spare keys with a trusted neighbor.
- Never leave a garage door opener in a vehicle that is parked in your driveway or on the street.

Protecting Your Vehicle

- Never leave any items in plain view. Backpacks, purses, shopping bags, MP3 players, glasses, cell phones and other visible items will invite a burglar to smash your window.
- Always lock your doors, even for short stops, and always alarm your vehicle.
- If visiting the gym, bring your valuables with you - do not place them in the trunk when you park. Burglars watch parking lots for easy targets.
- Always park in well lit, busy areas.

Protecting Your Identity

- Safeguard your purse or wallet. Do not leave them unattended and check contents regularly.
- Create a secure hiding place at home for extra checks and documents with your personal information.
- Make a list of contact numbers for all credit and debit cards in your wallet. If lost or stolen, you will be able to cancel cards quickly.
- Never reveal personal identification information, social security number, financial information, or your address to strangers online or on the phone.
- Always shred bills, bank and credit card statements, and any credit applications received in the mail.
- Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet or write your Social Security number on a check.
- Do not open emails from financial institutions asking for your account access information online.
- Install and update anti-virus and spam protectors on all computers in your home and office.
- Use long passwords with a combination of letters and numbers.
- Check your credit report on a regular basis to see if any new accounts have been opened without your knowledge.
- If needed, place a 90 day free credit watch through any credit agency