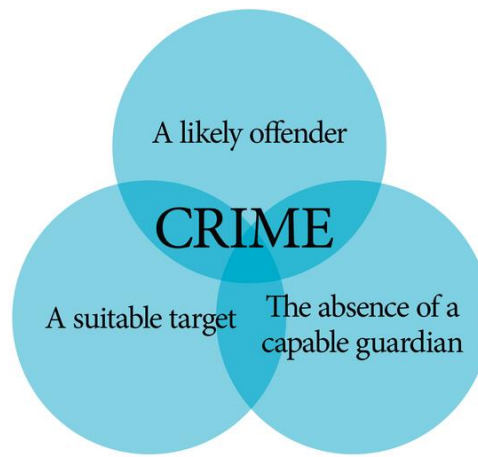


CPTED Residential Survey

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a crime prevention philosophy based on the theory that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in crime.

Crime occurs when a motivated offender and a suitable target converge in space and time in the absence of a capable guardian. CPTED aims to prevent crime through environmental means by reducing the motivation of offenders, decreasing the suitability of targets, and increasing the presence and capability of guardians.



CPTED primarily accomplishes these ends through a concept called “defensible space” which suggests that unclaimed space is an easy target for criminals, and when people demonstrate ownership and consequently defense of a space, the target becomes less suitable for criminal acts. Effective designation of defensible space additionally welcomes guardianship from visitors, neighbors, and passersby, thus increasing the involvement and capability of guardians.

A defensible space has three key components: (1) it must be clearly identified and delineated, (2) it must be modified to prevent access of unauthorized persons, and (3) it must provide visibility for witnesses in the event of a crime. CPTED aims to make spaces less safe for criminal activity and more safe and inviting for the people who belong there through natural surveillance, access control, territorial reinforcement, and target hardening/maintenance.

I have compiled the following checklists from some of the most recent empirical data in crime prevention studies, which I’ve listed at the end of this packet. You can find additional tips by simply searching for “CPTED residential” in your preferred search engine.

This document is not an official publication of the Denver Police Department, nor is it affiliated in any way with the Denver Police Department. I provide it solely as a written resource from me to you to assist in your home crime prevention goals.

Natural Surveillance

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