

# SAFER BUSINESS SPACES

## Practical tips on how to organize space to deter criminal activity

Offenders look for opportunity. Incorporating these simple tips into how you organize and manage your space can reduce opportunities for criminal activity.



### SEE AND BE SEEN

Design spaces to maximize your ability to see what is happening around your business. This will increase offenders' chances of being seen (and caught).

- 1 **Consider the height of shelving units.** High shelves can be an obstruction to sightlines and can help hide problematic behaviour. Lower shelving units are preferable.
- 2 **Leave store windows free of advertisements.** This will allow patrons to predict the space they are entering and enables passerbys to provide additional surveillance by being able to look inside.

### LIGHTING

Install lighting that will illuminate your property entirely. Those with bad intentions are looking for spaces where they can remain hidden from view.

- 3 **Consider LED motion sensor lights.** They are both efficient and cost effective.
- 4 **Change burned out bulbs, clean light fixtures and remove surrounding debris** so lighting is effective.
- 5 **Make sure lighting is consistent.** Mismatched lighting can complicate potential witnesses' ability to see correctly.

### MANAGING ENTRY POINTS

Knowing who is coming and going will reduce anonymity and help deter criminal activity.

- 6 **Position staff close to the entryways** and greet patrons when they walk into your space. It supports access control and creates positive customer relations.

### MAINTENANCE

Be an example of how you want others to treat your business. A well-maintained area shows pride, monitoring, and control of your space.

- 7 **Keep walkways clean.** This includes shoveling snow, cleaning debris and garbage and removing obstructions.
- 8 **Add beautifying elements** such as flowers or shrubs.
- 9 **Remove graffiti** within 72 hours.



NEIGHBOURHOOD  
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NET is a partnership of the Edmonton Police Service,  
City of Edmonton and The Family Centre.

**Please note:** This document offers suggestions on approaches that can improve safety for your business but it is not a complete list. For more information, please connect with the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team at [NET@edmonton.ca](mailto:NET@edmonton.ca).