

Local Business Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

Vigilance is key for everyone living and working in urban neighborhoods. Everyone plays a role in keeping our district safe. Criminals are drawn to areas that look neglected, where nobody is paying attention and crime is easy. Most crimes in our area are related to property theft and vandalism. These are crimes of opportunity. Reduce opportunity and harden your business by reviewing this [business crime prevention](#) information and tips from Denver Police:

- Security System:** a security system, with interior and exterior cameras, is the #1 recommendation of the police. It can be a deterrent and camera footage is often instrumental in identifying suspects and crime patterns.
- Panic button:** If you or an employee are working alone, use a panic button near the register or on a cord around your neck. This will immediately notify the police for quick response. It can also be a deterrent if you tell someone you're pushing it. Most security systems offer a panic button as an additional feature.
- Ding, dong!** Add a bell to your front and rear doors so that you know when someone is coming and going from your store—and they know you know.
- Shine the Light:** install outdoor lights at entrances and exits, light up any dark areas where someone might want to hide or be unseen. There are many inexpensive, solar powered flood lights to choose from.
- Post this [sign](#) in your window and near your cash register to deter “smash and grabs”.
- Eliminate hiding or gathering places:** cut back overgrown bushes, lock dumpster enclosures, block access to rear patios and spaces under stairwells.
- Remove landscape rocks** or other items that can be used to break windows.
- Use a steering wheel club** in your vehicle to deter theft. You can get them at O'Reilly Auto Parts at Colfax & Grape.
- See & Be Seen:** keep windows and doors clear of posters, paint, films--anything that makes it hard for you to see people at and around your entrance. They need to know that they're

being seen too. If you call the police, they'll need to see what's going on in the store when they arrive. Make sure items of value cannot be seen through windows at night.

- **Stand up for yourself:** Be assertive, protect your personal space and project an air of confidence. Don't act like a victim.
 - Clearly tell someone to stop what they're doing and leave the store. There are no public restrooms or food. Say it when they enter, not later.
 - Have someone with you—another employee or a neighbor.
 - Have a plan if things escalate—panic button, secure room to go to and call the police.
 - Report harassment to the police.

- **Change routines:** don't take the trash out or go to the bank at night, vary the route you take to get to work, leave the cash register drawer open at night to show that no cash is on premises. Use the buddy system behind businesses, in parking lots and to bus stops.

- **No trespassing:** If you have a frequent visitor who is intimidating, disruptive or stealing, you may tell them that they are not welcome and to leave. Fill out a trespass agreement with the police and post a "No Trespassing" sign at your front and rear entrances. This adds the person to a police database so that they can be ticketed or arrested if you report them on your property. You can get the sign at Denver TrueValue at Colfax & Locust.

- **Work with your neighbors:** Project an air of safety and intolerance for nuisance behavior on your block. Help back each other up.
 - Get to know businesses on either side of you.
 - share information about suspicious activity, coordinate reporting to the police.
 - Have Business Watch decals in your windows. They are available through District 2 Police.
 - Share your contact information so you can help each other.
 - Keep sidewalks clean, pick-up litter and report graffiti to Denver 311 Services on line.

- **Report theft and crimes:** this helps police investigate your incident and connect patterns. The same people often hit nearby businesses.
 - District 2 Dispatch: 720.913.1000
 - File a report online [here](#). Or <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Police-Department>

- **Schedule a free safety audit with District 2 police.** They will walk your property with you and suggest safety improvements. They can also conduct training with your employees on safety practices, including assertiveness and de-escalation strategies. Request through Officer Michael Borquez, District 2 Police Community Resource Officer, at 720.913.1050.

Important Phone Numbers and Links

Non-emergencies, suspicious activity, encampments	District 2 Police Dispatch	720.913.1000
Emergencies, crimes in progress	911	911
Safety audit	Free service	Officer Michael Borquez, Denver Police District 2 Community Resource Officer, 720.913.1050
Graffiti, weeds, encampments Street or alley lights out at night		Denver 311 Services www.denvergov.org/Government/Departments/311-City-Services