

Hardening the Target

Crime Prevention: Residential Lighting

Reduce Opportunities of Crime – Lighting plays a vital role in crime prevention. There are many types of designs with various functions that can be used in areas to illuminate darkness. Proper lighting will enhance the safety of people and security of property. Remember, criminals work in the dark and prefer not to be seen. Most crimes are opportunity based, so don't give them the opportunity. One of the most important aspects to remember about lighting is that it gives you a piece of mind and a sense of security.

Proper lighting allows you and your neighbors to quickly see prowlers and unwanted intruders. Lighting should be vandal and tamper resistant and placed out of reach. Proper placement is just as important. Make sure areas of darkness are well illuminated. Glaring lights can also cause an obstructed view. Proper shielding will help reduce the glare.

LED Lighting – This is superior to incandescent and fluorescent lighting. Its economical and requires less energy than traditional lighting.

Motion Sensing – Motion sensing lighting is ideal for locations where bright lights can be an annoyance. Sensors can be adjusted to decrease or increase sensitivity. Placement is also important. Most lighting requires an energy source. When there isn't an AC source, batteries can be an alternative. The downside is they require periodic replacement. Many surveillance cameras systems incorporate lighting and will send cell phone alerts when tripped. Motion sensing lights may also serve as a warning when someone is near. The intruder may also think someone intentionally turned the light on.

Porch Lights – Just because you leave your porch light on doesn't mean they know if your home or not. Motion sensing porch lights can also warn you when someone is approaching your door.

Interior Lights – Leaving lights on when you're not home can make the intruders think your home. Most residential burglaries occur when you're not there. Light timers can turn on lights in evening hours. Remember to adjust for daylight savings.

Landscaping lighting – Illuminate dark areas around plants and trees where a lurker may hide. Remember to keep your ground cover lower than two feet and your tree canopy higher than six feet.

Street Lights – Glendale Water and Power installs and maintains street lighting. If you see a street lamp broken or inoperative contact GWP @ (818) 548-2011 or by using the MyGlendale app. If you feel there is an area on your street that needs a street lamp, contact GWP Engineering @ (818) 548-3921 for more information and requirements. Over grown trees can cause obstruction and should be reported to Glendale Public Works (818) 548-3950 or by using the MyGlendale App.

Parking Lot and driveway Lighting – Lighting creates a sense of safety as you enter or exit your vehicle. Adequate lighting and placement for full coverage is important.

Maintenance – It's imperative to repair inoperative lights in a timely manner.