

# How to Start a Neighborhood Watch Group in 5 Easy Steps

## 1. Recruit and Organize as many neighbors as possible

It is wonderful that you are taking the steps to start a Neighborhood Watch group in your neighborhood. The first step is talking to your fellow neighbors about starting a group.

## 2. Contact your local law enforcement agency and schedule a meeting

The next step is contacting your local law enforcement agency. Invite them to meet with your group at a time and place convenient for your Watch Group. It is essential for your group to work in collaboration with law enforcement because Neighborhood Watch is a cooperative effort.

## 3. Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan

If law enforcement is unavailable to come to the first meeting you might want to have a meeting to discuss the concerns and issues in the neighborhood. Your group should create a plan on how to work towards lessening the impact of the top 3 concerns of neighbors.

## 4. Create a communication plan

It is important to decide what type of communication will work for your watch group - meetings or social media or both.

## 5. Take Action: Hold Meetings and Events

Neighborhood Watch Toolkit has a number of wonderful training topics and meeting ideas that can be useful to your group.

## What are some of the benefits of starting a Neighborhood Watch Group?

- Partnerships with Law Enforcement and your Neighbors
- Reduction in Crime
- A More Secure and Better Prepared Hometown
- A More United Community
- Improved Communications

