

ACTIONS AKT RESIDENTS CAN DO TAKE
NOW TO DETER AND PREVENT CRIME

As Abbot Kinney Triangle-Venice residents, we must do everything we can to protect ourselves for three reasons:

1. To keep ourselves and our homes safe.
2. To show the LAPD that we are doing everything we can and therefore merit the highest possible protection.
3. To make crime unwelcome in our neighborhood by reporting small crimes that can lead to larger ones.

Remember: **Most crimes are crimes of opportunity.** Criminals try doorknobs and peer around sideyards to find openings. They watch our daily patterns to learn when residents are not at home. They look into cars for belongings left visible. More than 40 percent of break-ins happen without the use of force. **Don't give criminals opportunities!**

Home Safety:

1. Lock doors, garages, windows, screens and gates, front, side and back. ***Even when you're home***—as recent hot prowls prove. Especially in Venice alleys, criminals are trying gates and doors at all hours.
2. Close and lock your windows—*especially* when you're not home.
3. Lock garages and storage sheds.
4. Install a locked mailbox.
5. Don't leave mail in your mailbox for pickup. Instead, drop mail off at the post office or in public mailboxes.
6. Don't leave keys where they can be easily found—e.g., doormat.
7. **Be aware that crime is highest on weekdays between 11:00 A.M. and 3 P.M., when people are most likely to be at work.**

Perimeter Safety:

8. Post signs: "Beware of Dog," "Property under Video Surveillance," alarm-company signs, etc.
9. On alley entrances such as back fences, gates, and garage doors, put up "No Trespassing" signs to add trespassing to potential reportable infractions.
10. Trim overgrown landscaping that creates hiding/lurking places, especially in vulnerable narrow sideyards.
11. Install a gravel path along side yards: footsteps on gravel make noise.
12. Organize regular alley cleanups with your block.
13. Mount security cameras on your house. Fake cameras are visual deterrents, but live systems are increasingly affordable and helpful in substantiating crime after the fact.
14. Paint over graffiti as soon as it appears. Unattended graffiti encourages more graffiti, making a neighborhood look like it's unattended and soft on crime.

15. Don't leave possessions such as bicycles, strollers, tools, etc., visible and loose in your yard, even if gates are locked. Lock bikes.
16. If you see a transient sleeping or dwelling in an alley or sidewalk, call the police.
17. If you see a vehicle in which someone may be dwelling, call the police.

Lighting:

18. For the good of the neighborhood, install porch lights on timers.
19. Also for the neighborhood, install motion-sensor lights on back-alley garages and fences. If lights are activated by motion, neighbors are more likely to notice someone moving around your home, and criminals are more likely to be startled.

Travel:

20. When you leave town, draw shades and curtains to prevent visibility into your home.
21. Put interior lights on timers to make it look as if someone is home.
22. Arrange to have your mail and packages picked up.
23. Consider a housesitter.
24. Residential crime spikes in July, August, and around Christmas, when people are more likely to be away.

Longer-Term Actions:

25. Install a home-alarm system.
26. Make sure your locks are up to current anti-break-in standards.

27. Make sure windows and doors are to current anti-break-in standards.

28. Consider having a dog.

29. As a neighborhood, we may want to consider a private security service.

Automobile Crime Deterrents:

30. Close your car windows and lock your car doors. Always. Criminals try to get lucky with car doors 24 hours a day.

31. Do not leave valuables—or unvaluables—visible in your car. Criminals can cause more damage breaking a window than that iPhone charger was worth. Leave no belongings visible inside your car.

Working with the LAPD:

32. Report all crime to the police, no matter how small, as reports make statistical “points on the map” that guide local law enforcement—data brings us the resources we need.

29. Schedule regular neighborhood walkarounds with residents and LAPD senior lead officers (SLOs) so that we can get to know one another and share neighborhood concerns.

Local LAPD and public official contact information is located on our website, abbotkinneytriangle.org.

Resources for crime prevention:

- National Crime Prevention Council: ncpc.org/
- LAPD crime prevention: lapdonline.org/crime_prevention