



Window advertisements have eliminated almost all natural surveillance from the outside of this business, making it more vulnerable to crime.

- Businesses with cover. For prospective burglars, cover includes features that obscure views especially of doors and windows including trees and dense shrubs, walls and fences, and architectural features.
- Businesses that are secluded. Businesses that are isolated are more attractive to burglars. Businesses and warehouses located in industrial parks are more vulnerable to burglaries because these areas tend to be desolate after business hours.
- Businesses with poor lighting. Poor lighting, especially around entry points, reduces a burglar's visibility to neighbors or bystanders.

Accessibility:

- Businesses accessible by alleys provide both access and escape for burglars, and limited visibility to neighbors.
- Businesses near major thoroughfares such as freeways are more vulnerable to burglary.

Vulnerability or security:

How vulnerable or secure a business is determines how likely a burglar is to target it. Those particularly at risk include:

- Businesses with weakened entry points. Poor building materials can make a business more vulnerable to burglary. Older structures may have rusting, easily compromised locks or worn and decaying window and door frames, while newer structures may be built with cheap materials.
- Businesses whose staff are careless about security. Burglarized buildings often have unlocked or open windows or doors. Seasonal variations may determine burglars' access methods. Summer months allow entry through open windows or doors, while winter months bring an increase in forced entry.
- Businesses with few or no security devices. Studies show that criminals prefer to avoid businesses with alarms installed. Alarms have been able to thwart burglaries in progress.



Weakened entry points can make a business more vulnerable to burglary.

Steps to Commercial Burglary Prevention:

- A security checklist titled "CPTED for Dense Commercial Settings" published by the Crime Prevention program is a helpful list of ways to improve the security of your business. It can be accessed at www.portlandonline.com/oni/cp; select crime prevention resources, and then crime prevention brochures and flyers.
- Install double-cylinder dead-bolt locks on glass paneled doors.
- Make sure window locks are designed and located so they cannot be reached and opened if the glass is broken.
- To deter the "Smash and Grab," move merchandise away from the windows after closing.
- Use strong, well-built doors. For entrances on any side of a building not easily visible to neighbors, solid core doors with minimal or no glass should be installed. Doors with large areas of glass should be used in locations visible to neighbors or passersby.
- Install see-through fencing or thorny vegetation to make it more difficult

to access your business; however, make sure that these additions do not decrease the visibility of your property.

- Any opening can be a potential entry point. Secure skylights, air ducts, attics, crawl spaces, and vulnerable areas shared with other businesses.
- Keep premises and surroundings clean and well maintained to communicate that the owners are in control of the property and vigilant.
- Trim and limb up shrubs and trees so they do not provide hiding places for the burglar, especially near entryways.
- Do not store lumber, pallets or crates near buildings. They offer easy access to upper windows or roof. Keep ladders locked up.
- Make sure fire escapes and exits are equipped with exit-only doors.
- Install outside lights at all entry points, behind the building and in alleyways.
- Install lights outside that either remain on all night or have motion detectors.
- Leave on enough interior lighting after business hours to detect movement. Make sure that blinds or curtains do not block visibility.
- Secure valuable inventory in secured cages or safes.
- Anchor the safe with bolts so it cannot be carried away.
- Consider limiting the amount of inventory on hand with more frequent deliveries.
- Never leave combinations where they can be found.
- Change the combination every few months and anytime an employee leaves.
- Make bank deposits frequently to keep cash at a minimum. Establish a strict cash control policy and advertise it.
- If you choose to install an alarm, be sure to test it on a regular basis and make sure that employees are properly trained in its use.
- Mark all office equipment with your Federal Employer Tax ID number or your Drivers License number.
- Keep a record of all merchandise and equipment serial numbers; this will help with recovery in the event of a burglary. Secure this information in a fire proof safe or safe deposit box.
- If you choose a surveillance camera system, consider it an apprehension tool. The quality of pictures are important; the camera will need to adjust for darkness and light. The angle of the cameras should be considered during installation. Cameras that capture license plate information, facial features, and other details are effective.
- Leave the empty cash register drawer open at night.
- Log and mark all checks for "For deposit in the account of _____."
- Devise a control system for all keys. Keep a record of who has keys to the building or store. Engrave all keys with "do not duplicate." Consider changing locks annually or after an employee has been terminated.
- Lock up all important files and/or computer back up disks in a secure location.
- Start a Business Watch program designed to reduce crime and the fear of crime and promote positive communication and relationships within an area. Contact your Crime Prevention Coordinator for more information.



Because this property has good natural surveillance, the risk of detection to an offender increases.