

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH -

Preventing burglaries and damage

In Trollhättan we prioritise security-building measures. Security is among our most fundamental needs. We therefore urge you to help us help you build increased security where you live, through a neighbourhood watch.

A neighbourhood watch is a social network created by residents in an area for the purpose of cooperating with, supporting and helping each other to reduce crime and increase the security of families and property. A neighbourhood watch is completely voluntary and free of charge.

The neighbourhood watch method has been in use for around 40 years, but until now it has been mostly in areas with detached or semi-detached houses. It's time to change that. AB Eidar, Trollhättans Bostadsbolag, Trollhättans Stad and the Police are backing this neighbourhood watch initiative for blocks of flats in Trollhättan. The trick is to convert grumbling about each other's homes, about public spaces and the neighbourhood into constructive action.

Studies indicate that what most tenants are unhappy with are things that are caused by people in their proximity, who live in their block of flats or in the neighbourhood. People everywhere blame 'somebody' for everything bad that happens. And then someone else has to take responsibility for solving the problems, which usually ends up being the local council or the landlord, meaning that the costs of their intervention are then passed on to you.

In today's society, with its high cost of living, we should be the ones tracking down 'somebody'. We're the ones who own the problem, after all. So if we get to know each other within the neighbourhood, that anonymous 'somebody' disappears and we get to grips with the problems together.

CONTACT:

Gigi Cederholm, koordinator Trollhättan, 0520-49 79 77, gigi.cederholm@trollhattan.se





Trollhättans
Stad



Polisen

"A neighbourhood watch helps create security since it involves getting to know each other. Through our stairwell meetings we have been able to pick up on and safeguard residents' interests. This has led to considerable involvement among the residents."

Tenants' association, Karlskrona

How a neighbourhood watch works

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- Talk to your neighbours to find out how many are interested in organising a neighbourhood watch.
- Once you've decided to start a neighbourhood watch, contact the coordinator at Trollhättans Stad. We will then agree on a date for an inspection of the area together with the police.
- It makes things easier if you appoint a main contact person for your area and if this is done before the inspection of the area.

THE MAIN CONTACT PERSON'S TASKS

- Make a list of participating residents in the area.
- Send the list to the coordinator at Trollhättans Stad.
- Inspect the area together with the police and decide where signs should be placed.
- Distribute information and stickers to participants.
- Maintain contact with the coordinator and the participants.
- Inform new residents about the neighbourhood watch.
- Inform the coordinator of any changes to the list of participants.
- Participate in any follow-up meetings and at the annual security assembly.

THE PARTICIPANTS' TASKS

- Label items that are most liable to be stolen, and make an inventory. Photos and receipts help the police trace goods found in the possession of suspects, and facilitate your dealings with insurance companies.
- Inform neighbours, the main contact person and/or participants if you're going to be away from home for more than a week.
- Store valuable documents and objects securely; avoid storing them where they are visible through your windows.
- Be generally vigilant. Contact the police, the main contact person and/or participants if you see anything that is amiss.
- Always contact the police in the event of a suspected crime.

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO

- Always lock the front door, even when you're at home.
- Make your home appear inhabited – use timers to control lights and radios/TVs when you're away.
- Install an alarm system.
- Have telephone calls forwarded. Don't have a message on your answering machine that says you're not at home.
- Have someone check on your home when you're away.

INFORMATION & CONTACT:

trollhattan.se/brottsforebyggande

Gigi Cederholm,
coordinator Trollhättans stad,
0520-49 79 77
gigi.cederholm@trollhattan.se