



Image via [Unsplash](#)

## 3 Easy Ways to Help Keep Your Neighborhood Safe

Neighborhood safety isn't a matter of luck. It's a team effort built on positive relationships and a proactive approach. By working together as a community, you can reduce crime in your area, foster positive relationships, and ensure a feeling of security. The [North End Neighborhood Association](#) invites you to read on for tips to help make your neighborhood a safer place.

### Practice good communication

The best way to get started is by talking — talk to your neighbors and learn more about them. If you offer to be available in case of an emergency, they're likely to reciprocate the offer. Once you know each other, you and your neighbors can stay connected in several ways, such as social media groups or [mobile apps](#). Of course, nothing can replace in-person interaction, so don't be shy about suggesting or hosting community get-togethers.

If an issue does arise in your neighborhood, resist the urge to leave notes on people's doors or post signs. This can be interpreted as passive-aggressive and is unlikely to lead to a long-term

solution. Instead, talk to your neighbors directly (even if it feels awkward at the time) to [resolve issues](#) before they become full-blown feuds.

If you're concerned about the [safety](#) of someone in your community, reach out to them or work together with local law enforcement. Getting involved may feel tough to do (especially if you suspect a neighbor is the victim of domestic abuse), but try to remember it's the best way [you can help](#). You're not overstepping by checking in if you hear something alarming.

## Address safety hazards

Don't wait until there's an accident, fire, or break-in to address safety hazards in your neighborhood. Keep an eye out for anything that could be a hazard – such as ice, fallen tree limbs, utilities that need maintenance, or unsafe drivers. In the case of dangerous driving, you can voice concerns to your local law enforcement liaison and discuss possible solutions – such as speed bumps, radar enforcement, or speed limit signage.

If you live in a shared housing community, consider getting involved with your homeowners association (HOA). You can [work together](#) to address safety concerns and ensure that maintenance issues are addressed promptly. Think not just of your own personal safety, but of everyone in your community. For example, if you notice that a mobility-challenged resident is struggling to get around the property, you can advocate for them by suggesting that the HOA makes any necessary accessibility upgrades to shared spaces.

It's also crucial to address any home safety issues. Whether it's to avoid break-ins or to remove hazards from your property, make this task a priority. For example, survey your property to determine if you have any dead trees that pose a danger, and if so, have them professionally removed. Or, if you've recently purchased your home, make a point to change the locks. There's no telling who has a copy of a key to your home, and rekeying the locks will offer peace of mind. Again, connect with a professional to ensure the work is done correctly. When searching for experts, make a point to check review sites like [Angi](#) first to help narrow down your choices. After you find a few names, get a few quotes, but make sure to confirm their specialties.

## Improve the lighting

Burglars work best under the cover of darkness. Don't give them that chance. Street lamps are not the only way to improve the lighting on your street. Consider asking neighbors to turn on their porch lights in the evenings or install [motion-detector](#) lighting around their homes. Ensuring that every entryway is well-lit can deter burglars.

If you're planning a vacation, you can use a [smart home system](#) to create the impression that you're home. For example, you can turn on lights, TVs, and speakers remotely. These can be

programmed to come on at certain times or when motion-detectors sense movement. Be sure to tell your neighbors that you'll be away so they can keep an eye out as well.

Making your neighborhood a safer place isn't just one person's job. Everyone needs to work together, but it can start with you. By communicating with your neighbors, befriending local law enforcement, addressing any hazards, and keeping your area well-lit, you're well on your way to improving the security of your community. Then, you can focus on enjoying where you live.

*For more information about how to get involved and show your neighborhood support, join the [North End Neighborhood Organization](#) today!*

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