

# Situational crime prevention



New South Wales Government  
Attorney General's Department

Situational crime prevention focuses on preventing the opportunity for crime to occur by addressing:

- » factors within a given location that create a crime 'hotspot'
- » characteristics that may make some people more vulnerable to victimisation than others.

Situational crime prevention measures concentrate on preventing crime from occurring and victimisation.



Situational crime prevention measures include:

- » the management, design and modification of the environment (including open space and the built environment) that will impact on a potential offender's decision to commit a crime (refer to AGD *Rational choice* factsheet on the NSW Attorney General's crime prevention website: [www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au))
- » the implementation of the above to make a crime more difficult to commit, increase the risk of being caught, decrease the reward associated with committing the crime and decrease the excuse for an offender's behaviour in that location.
- » increasing the awareness of a potential victim about their vulnerability to crime, and educating them about reducing their chances of victimisation.

Situational crime prevention is underpinned by the following theories:

- » Environmental Criminology (refer to AGD *Environmental criminology* factsheet)
- » Rational Choice (refer to AGD *Rational choice* factsheet)
- » Routine Activity (refer to AGD *Routine activity* factsheet)

All of the factsheets mentioned above and other crime prevention information can be found on the NSW Attorney General's Department crime prevention website: [www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au)

# Twenty-five techniques of situational crime prevention

(adapted from *Twenty-five Techniques of Situational Crime Prevention* by Cornish and Clarke (2003). Each technique has examples listed with it.

Increase the effort	Increase the risks	Reduce the rewards	Reduce provocations	Remove the excuses
<b>1. Harden targets</b> Immobilisers in cars Anti-robbery screens Solid external doors with quality locks	<b>6. Extend guardianship</b> Neighbourhood watch	<b>11. Conceal targets</b> Do not keep valuables in plain sight Off-street parking	<b>16. Reduce frustration &amp; stress</b> Efficient queuing Soothing lighting	<b>21. Set rules</b> Rental agreements Hotel registration
<b>2. Control access to facilities</b> Alley-gating Entry phones/secure entries	<b>7. Assist natural surveillance</b> Improved street lighting Neighbourhood watch hotlines	<b>12. Remove targets</b> Removable car radios Pre-paid public phone cards	<b>17. Avoid disputes</b> Reduce crowding in pubs	<b>22. Post instructions</b> 'No parking' 'Private property'
<b>3. Screen exits</b> Tickets needed Electronic tags for floor stock	<b>8. Reduce anonymity</b> Taxi driver IDs' How's my driving?' signs	<b>13. Identify property</b> Property marking Vehicle licensing	<b>18. Reduce emotional arousal</b> Control violent pornography Prohibit paedophiles working with children	<b>23. Alert conscience</b> Roadside speed display signs' Shoplifting is stealing'
<b>4. Deflect offenders</b> Street closures in red light district Separate toilets for women	<b>9. Utilise place managers</b> Train employees to prevent crime Support whistle blowers	<b>14. Disrupt markets</b> Checks on pawn brokers Licensed street vendors	<b>19. Neutralise peer pressure</b> Campaigns depicting what friends think of risk-taking behaviour (e.g. Speeding & Drug campaigns) "It's ok to say no"	<b>24. Assist compliance</b> Litter bins Public lavatories
<b>5. Control tools/ weapons</b> Tougher beer glasses Photos on credit cards	<b>10. Strengthen formal surveillance</b> Speed cameras Security guards	<b>15. Deny benefits</b> Ink merchandise tags Graffiti cleaning	<b>20. Discourage imitation</b> Rapid vandalism repair	<b>25. Control drugs/alcohol</b> Breathalysers in pubs Alcohol-free events

Local government is most likely to effectively impact on crime through the use of situational crime prevention techniques due to the local knowledge and associated networks. Given these factors the focus of local crime prevention should be overwhelmingly on situational crime prevention activities.

Not all local governments have the same capacity to address crime and its various facets. However all Councils have control and influence over local services and infrastructure, consequently impacting on crime at a situational level.