

Neighbourhood Watch

July 2020 Bulletin



Vandalism

Vandalism is the act of deliberately damaging public or private property. This can have further negative effects financially and psychologically as it changes the mood of the environment.

Some examples of vandalism include:

- Graffiti and gang tags
- Breaking windows and mailboxes
- Pulling down street signs
- Damaging vehicles, homes, and/or businesses

Broken windows theory suggests that taking no action against crimes like vandalism can demonstrate a lack of pride and ownership in a community. This can encourage further delinquent behaviour. With many community hot spots beginning to reopen, it is necessary for us to show pride and ownership of our community and take action!

Neighbourhood Watch members can prevent vandalism by:

- Organizing an Operation Clean Sweep
- Keeping an eye on vulnerable areas of the neighbourhood
- Ensuring proper lighting and video surveillance to deter vandalism attempts
- Using shrubs and physical barriers to hinder access to potential vandalism targets
- Immediately reporting incidents of vandalism

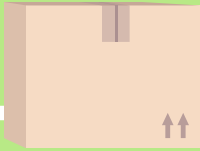
Vandalism can be reported through the Peel Regional Police Non-Emergency Line (905-453-3311) or online at

<https://www.peelpolice.ca/en/report-it/make-a-report-online.aspx>.

Littering or graffiti can also be directly reported online at

<https://www.mississauga.ca/portal/services/>





Package Theft



COVID-19 has created many challenges to our lives, including pushing many to order online and through postal services. With the rise in online shopping, package theft has become an increasing problem. Here are some tips that can help you to safely purchase online and secure your package upon arrival:

Strategize the arrival of your package - Many delivery services provide estimated arrival times and allow shoppers to track their package's delivery schedule. Use this to determine where and when you would like to receive your package, if you'll need to send it somewhere else, or if you need someone to pick it up for you.

Leave "Safe Drop" instructions - Canada Post performs "Safe Drops", where they will store your package such that it is not visible to onlookers. Specific instructions can be made on your delivery label (Ex. "leave item in between screen door") to ensure the Safe Drop is made to your preferences.

Use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) - Remember CPTED principles to either conceal your package (ex. by providing safe places for delivery services to hide your package) or to ensure clear lines of sight so that neighbours and cameras can see anyone that might try to take your package.



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