



## Tips for Finding a Safe Neighborhood

**Tip 1:** Visit the neighborhood at various times throughout the day and night. A neighborhood can look pleasant and quiet during the day when most people are at work and/or school. Try to go back to the location in the evenings and on weekends. You may get a different perspective.

**Tip 2:** Pay attention to how well the streets are lit. Are there any broken or burned out lights? Are sidewalks and alley ways too dark?

**Tip 3:** If you drive, notice where and when the available parking spaces are located. Street parking may be the only option for you. If this is the case, try to get a good idea of when spaces in front of your residence are available and if you can avoid walking a long way, especially at night.

**Tip 4:** It is always a good idea to identify where the local law enforcement station is located and how often they patrol the area. Being able to view the neighborhood at different times of the day and night may give you a chance to observe whether or not there is a police presence in the area. Inquire about any neighborhood watch groups that patrol the streets at night, providing an extra layer of community safety.

**Tip 5:** If you use public transportation, make sure you locate the nearest bus stops and metro stations. In many neighborhoods the bus stops are near wooded areas. Be mindful of these dark, unlit areas, especially at night when fewer people are around.

**Tip 6:** If you have children that walk to school, identify a safe route for them to take and develop a strategy for ensuring that they make it to and from their destination safely.

**Tip 7:** Look up the crime statistics for the neighborhood you're considering by visiting: [www.crimeindc.org](http://www.crimeindc.org)

or

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view.a,1239,q,543329.asp>