

THE DENVER CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIMS **LIGHT, THE BEST CRIME STOPPER**

ASSESSING YOUR SECURITY LIGHTING NEEDS

Ask yourself these questions to determine if and where you need security lighting:

- Is the sidewalk outside your house or apartment hard to see at night?
- Do you feel uneasy entering your house, apartment, garage or yard at night?
- Do trees or shrubs put your entryway or porch in shadows?
- Has property been stolen from your balcony, garage or yard?
- Has your house or apartment been burglarized?

LIGHT, according to crime prevention specialists, police and criminals included, is an easy, inexpensive way to protect against crime. Something as simple as leaving on a porch light and alley light can keep you from becoming a victim. Keeping a compact fluorescent bulb on all night, every night, does not add significantly to your bill. Solar lighting can illuminate most of the outdoor areas, with significant advantages: they are environmentally friendly with no running costs, low initial investment and an easy installation. At dusk solar lights turn on automatically.

REPORT street lights that are out. AGAIN, criminals do not like to be seen. If your block needs additional street lighting or if street or alley lights are not working, call Xcel Energy at 1-800-895-4999, press 1, then 3. If possible, copy down the number on the pole that identifies the light and provide that number to Xcel Energy. Contact apartment management if your building is not well lit or has lights not working. It is costly for building owners when burglars break in.

An outside light that's on makes it safer for people—yourself, friends and family—coming to your home. Besides keeping criminals away, outdoor lighting reveals ice, uneven concrete, beware-of-dog signs and other potential hazards that can cause accidents.

HOME BURGLARY PREVENTION

- Buy a timer, plug it into the wall socket and plug a lamp into it. Set it for the nighttime hours desired.
- If possible, use more than one timer, especially for two-story homes, for different rooms.
- Schedule the lights to turn on and off for your usual family patterns.
- Motion detectors turn on lights when something moves in a set area. Crime prevention experts suggest using motion detectors together with a constant light source.

**WHATEVER LIGHT SOURCES YOU CHOOSE TO USE IN AND AROUND YOUR HOME,
REMEMBER THAT LIGHT IS THE FIRST STEP AGAINST CRIME.**

For lighting assistance:

Check with your local hardware center or lighting store for assistance with what will work for your home. Check with your local community organization. Some have volunteers and programs to help people in their community who are unable to complete the installation themselves.

Make yourself, your loved ones and your property safe by updating your lighting and using it consistently. For it to work, it must be turned on!