

# What Do You Say When...?

## How to Respond to Negative Attitudes When Forming a Neighborhood Watch group

**“Why are you starting a Neighborhood Watch? That will never work in my neighborhood. The neighbors don’t even know each other.”**

That’s the problem and the solution. How can you prevent burglaries if you don’t know your neighbors well enough, or care enough, to recognize and report suspicious activity?

**“I don’t want to be forced to become friends with my neighbors.”**

Getting involved with a watch group doesn’t mean that you have to become friends with your neighbors. It just means that you agree to cooperate to make your block safer. Your friends outside your neighborhood cannot watch your home when you are not home or provide immediate assistance with a problem you might have on your block.

**“I don’t want to get involved or give up my privacy.”**

Many people have discovered that giving up a little privacy is more than a fair trade for increased security and peace of mind.

**“I don’t trust some of my neighbors; they may be the ones ripping me off.”**

It might be beneficial to involve perceived or potential trouble makers in designing solutions to neighborhood problems. The joint efforts of a group of neighbors can make an offender feel uncomfortable enough to change their behaviors.

**“I have a burglar alarm and a big dog. I don’t need this.”**

Dogs can often be distracted with food. What about your neighbors who do not have alarms. There’s a lot you can do to help them.

**“We already cooperate with neighbors to look after each other’s property.”**

Do you know the extent of the problem? Do you know who the typical burglar is, what he takes, when and how? Do you know how to protect your home? Do you know what information the police needs in order to make an arrest? A NW meeting is a chance to meet your local police, to help them get familiar with your neighborhood, and to learn what you can do to help them.

**“I don’t want to be associated with the police.”**

You would want a police to be associated with you if you were a victim of crime, right? Getting to know the local police lets them know that you are both trying to accomplish the same thing—reduction of crime.