

Parking Lot Security

Property owners cannot afford to overlook safety in the parking lot. According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), 4% of all violent crimes, including, rape, robbery, assault, purse snatching, etc. occur in parking lots. This checklist offers ideas on how to help prevent security problems from occurring — and reoccurring in parking lots.

Management	Yes	No	N/A
Has a security audit of the parking lot/facility been performed?			
Do security measures match the expected risk level of the facility?			
Is a management system in place to make sure that security features are implemented and maintained?			
Access Control and Perimeter Security			
Do landscaping or architectural elements provide natural security protection by limiting access to the parking area?			
If fences are present, are they in good condition and used to increase effort required to commit a crime?			
Is the parking area restricted, requiring a badge or code to gain access? Are certain areas restricted and doors locked to limit access to vulnerable areas? Are stairwells enclosed and alarmed, and intended for emergency egress only? Are there restrictions limiting large vehicles or trucks to controlled areas?			
Visibility			
Is the facility designed to enhance natural surveillance (e.g., use of columns minimized and hiding places below stairs closed off)?			
Are pedestrian paths planned to concentrate egress? Is ample, glare-free lighting provided in enclosed areas or facilities used at night? Is illumination checked with a light meter to confirm that the results meet recommended parking lot illumination criteria?			
Have walls and ceilings been painted white to increase visibility? Are stairwells and elevator lobbies open? If stairwells and elevator lobbies are enclosed, have steps been taken to increase visibility both			
within the parking facility and to the street (e.g., glass walls or glass backs on elevator cabs) Are landscaping and shrubbery trimmed to eliminate hiding places?			
Communication			
Are signs and graphics provided to allow users to quickly relocate their vehicles when they re- enter the facility?			
Are patrons instructed to approach vehicles with keys in hand to reduce delays when they reach their vehicle?			
Are signs posted with clear rules to remove ambiguity concerning speeding, skating, littering, loitering, etc.			
Are emergency communication devices strategically located in the parking area to help users summon assistance?			
Are usage instructions provided adjacent to these devices?			



Surveillance	Yes	No	N/A
Are vehicle entrances and exits staffed? Can pedestrians enter the facility without passing attendants? Are closed-circuit cable television (CCTV) cameras in use? Are cameras checked for proper directional and functional activity? Are cameras monitored by qualified persons? Are recordings reviewed and archived for a minimum of one month at a secure location? Are uniformed security guards or other active security measures used in facilities with high crime risk?			
Are security guards trained on how to monitor and respond to security incidents at the facility? Are patrols randomly scheduled and routes varied so that they do not become predictable?			
Maintenance			
Are light bulbs replaced as soon as they burn out or proactively on a predetermined maintenance schedule?			
Is trash promptly picked up and removed? Is graffiti painted over? Are energy conservation efforts aligned with security measures to leverage investments?			

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