



City of Eugene ❖ Eugene Police Department

777 Pearl Street, Room 107 • Eugene, Oregon 97401 • (541) 682-5111



Door-to-Door Solicitors

There are no registration requirements for door-to-door solicitors in Eugene. Uniform Business Practices do require that they provide receipts for sales and that they carry photo identification that identifies their employer or organization -- but there is essentially no enforcement mechanism. The bottom line here is, we all have to rely on our own judgments about strangers who appear on the door step.

No doubt, there are many legitimate door-to-door solicitors representing local businesses or service organizations. The most common problem with legitimate solicitors is that they may leave “door-hangers” or other advertising materials at your door – inadvertently advertising that you are not home. If this is an issue in your neighborhood, arrange with neighbors to remove those items for each other when they appear.

Unfortunately, there are also some illegitimate solicitors, and those are the ones we hear about at the police department. For this group, the problems usually fall into one of the following two categories:

1. **Scams:** These are solicitors selling substandard or non-existent products. They often prey on senior citizens, selling magazine subscriptions, roof repairs or driveway sealant. They frequently will claim “we’re doing a job just up the street and have extra product, so we’ll offer you a good deal.” If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is. When in doubt, say no. Check references, and check with the Better Business Bureau or the police. You’re always safer picking the business yourself, rather than letting them pick you.
2. **Thieves:** These are phony solicitors who have come up with an excuse to take a look inside your house – or just to see if you’re home at all. If someone appears at your door empty-handed, without any products or brochures, and without identification prominently displayed, and claims to be selling something, that’s highly suspicious. They also might ask if someone named _____, lives there, or if you’ve seen a lost dog. These are just something to say when they are surprised to find you at home. If they are burglars, knocking on the door is just a precaution they take to

determine if the home is vacant or not before breaking in. If you don't answer the door they assume the house is empty and vulnerable.

Options for what you can do about it:

- Post “No Solicitors” or “No Trespassing” signs on your gate or front door.
- Refuse to open the door to strangers—even with a chain latch on.
- Install peep-holes and porch lights so that you can see who is at the door.
- Tell them through the door that you don't want their business, don't want to talk with them, don't do business with door-to-door solicitors, or that they are trespassing and should leave your property.
- For minor suspicious behavior, call and warn your neighbors. If you have set up a Neighborhood Watch, use your phone tree to spread the word. You can also call the police non-emergency line, 682-5111 to let us know about the behavior.
- For highly suspicious behavior, call the non-emergency line, and if the behavior appears to be a crime in progress, call 911.

For More information

Call (541) 682-8186 or e-mail the Eugene Police Crime Prevention Specialist at policeprevention@ci.eugene.or.us

Last update 012209