



## Home Safety

### GENERAL HOME SECURITY INFORMATION:

- All exterior doors should be solid hardwood or metal clad and have wide angle peepholes.
- Exterior doors should also have a wide-angle peephole installed with a keyed-entry lock and deadbolt. Lock your doors when you leave, even if only for a few minutes.
- Keep a spare set of keys with a trusted neighbor. Don't keep your spare key under a doormat or in the mailbox; these are the first places thieves look.
- Sliding glass doors should have keyed locks as well as wooden rods that can be placed in the track to prevent opening from the outside.
- Casement windows and horizontal sliding windows should have locks and/or pins to secure the window even when open a few inches for ventilation.
- Motion detecting lights should illuminate areas around the exterior of your house not lit by ambient light.
- Floodlights ensure effective illumination.
- Inscribe large valuables like televisions, computers, etc... with an identification number approved by the local police.
- Shrubs and bushes around the exterior and walkway to your home should be trimmed to a height of 2 feet and trees should be pruned so that the lowest branches hang no lower than 6 feet from the ground to eliminate places to hide.
- When leaving your home for extended periods of time, call the post office and have them hold your mail and put a stop on delivery of newspapers until your return. Also arranged for someone to tend to you lawn if you are gone for more than a week.
- Invest in an appliance timer that can switch lights on and off at pre-selected times when you are away to give potential intruders the illusion that you are home.
- Consider making a "home inventory" list and take pictures around the home including valuables to aid authorities in identification if stolen.
- Invest in an alarm system. Many systems are becoming increasingly affordable and having one installed can lower home insurance premiums.



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### **APARTMENT SAFETY:**

- Be sure all windows and doors near fire escapes are well secured. Fire escapes are a common way for burglars to rob a number of apartments in a short time.
- If renting in a multi-tenant building, get to know your neighbors by name. Consider a “password” to use in case someone forgets their keys and needs to be buzzed in.
- If you don’t have the authority to alter landscaping, ask the maintenance company to make the surroundings less burglar-friendly by trimming shrubs and installing better lights outside as well as inside in laundry rooms, trash rooms and other common areas.
- Let your neighbors know when you are out of town for an extended period of time.
- If you can’t install burglar alarms, leave a radio or a light on when you leave your apartment as a deterrent to thieves.

### **ELECTRICAL SAFETY INFORMATION:**

- Make sure all light bulbs are the appropriate wattage for the size of the fixture.
- All cords and extension cords should be well out of the way of foot traffic to avoid damage to the cord structure. Also, no furniture should be resting on the cords.
- All wiring should be free of cracks, frays, and never stapled or nailed to walls or other objects.
- Extension cords should have plastic safety covers on unused receptacles.
- All extension cords should be used only on a temporary bases and should never be carrying more than their rated load.
- Electric appliances should be placed on level surfaces away from curtains and drapes and in areas free from water.
- Countertop appliances should be unplugged when not in use.
- The Consumer Protection Safety Council recommends Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) on outlets near water such as in the kitchen or bathroom.
- All fuses should be the correct size and amperage for the circuits they protect.
- Outdoor outlets should have a water resistant cover.
- All electronics should be placed so air can circulate freely around them.