



Off-Campus Housing: Safety in your Apartment

Whether you are looking for a new residence or have lived in off-campus housing for years, the following information can help you better secure peaceful living environments.

- Know your roommates' security habits. You are only as safe as your roommates allow you to be.
- Discuss a plan with a trusted neighbor to assist you in case of emergency and give them a copy of your emergency contacts.
- ALWAYS lock your door(s) to your residence whether home or out.
- Use a peephole to determine who is knocking before you open the door.
- Don't prop doors open for ANYONE (i.e. friends or delivery people).
- Never leave your keys outside your residence, such as under a doormat or in a place accessible to a stranger.
- If you lose your keys, ask landlord to replace or re-key your door lock(s).
- Keep ground level windows closed & locked.
- Ask if the apartment/complex has a functioning sprinkler system. If not, ask are there fire extinguishers in each unit? On each floor?
- Check smoke detectors every month. Replace battery when needed. If there is no smoke detector, ask your landlord to install one.
- Check CO (carbon monoxide) detectors monthly. If battery operated, replace when needed.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers, such as local police and fire departments, near the phone or refrigerator.
- Know where your emergency exits are located and plan alternative evacuation routes in case of an emergency.
- Ask for date of last Fire Department site inspection. Is it done annually?
- Laundry rooms, lounges and common areas should not be used when you're alone.

Your off-campus residence is especially vulnerable to burglary during periods of time when students are known to be away, such as school breaks. When you are planning to leave your residence for a short or extended period of time keep the following in mind.

- Take all valuables with you.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your residence and provide a contact number.
- Ask the local police to check your home while away.
- Make sure your residence has the appearance of being lived in and not empty.
 - Leave curtains and blinds in a normal position
 - Stop all mail and paper deliveries
 - Use timers for lights and radios
 - Turn your phone ringer off or down
 - Don't announce your absence on your answering machine

**For more detailed information please visit our website at:
www.peaceoutsidecampus.org**