A SAFETY CHECKLIST
for Apartments

✓ Check Out Your Apartment

Does your —

● Entry door have a deadbolt lock and peephole?
● Sliding glass door have a wooden rod in the track so it can't be opened and pins in the overhead frame so it can't be lifted out?
● Landlord or building manager tightly control all keys?

For extra security, leave a radio playing or a light on while you are gone. Always tell neighbors and the building manager when you leave for a business trip or vacation.

✓ Check Out Your Building

● Is there some kind of control over who enters and leaves the building?
● Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and storage areas well-lighted, 24 hours a day?
● Are fire stairs locked from the stairwell side above the ground floor, so you can exit but no one can enter?
● Are mailboxes in a well-traveled, well-lighted area and do they have good locks?
● Are things well-maintained — are burnt-out lights fixed properly, shrubs trimmed, trash and snow removed?

✓ Check Out the Neighbors

● Get to know your neighbors. Join or organize an Apartment Watch group so neighbors can look out for and help each other.
● If you live in a large building or complex, think about a tenant patrol that watches for crime around the building, provides escort services for the elderly and handicapped, and monitors comings and goings in the lobby.
● Work with landlords to sponsor social events for tenants — a Sunday breakfast, a picnic, a Halloween party.
● Look beyond problems to root causes — does your building need a better playground, a social evening for teens, a tenant association, new landscaping, a basketball hoop? Work with the landlord for changes that make everyone proud of where they live.

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