



Colonie Police Department

Apartment Safety Tips

Everyone wants to feel a sense of security where they live. Working together with property management, you can implement strategies to reduce the likelihood of being the victim of a break in.

Utilize Security Devices To Improve The Security Of Your Apartment

- ◆ Doors are a burglar's first choice of entry. Your apartment door should have a good deadbolt lock.
- ◆ Locks only work if you use them. Be sure to lock your apartment even when you step out for a moment. It is a good habit to keep your door locked even when you are home.
- ◆ Never hide a spare key under your doormat. Leave with a neighbor or relative.
- ◆ Use the intercom or peephole to identify visitors before opening your door.
- ◆ Be sure that entrance areas are well-lit. Keep porch lights on.
- ◆ If your complex has a common entry or main door, do not prop open the door and ensure that it closes and locks behind you. Do not allow access to unknown persons.
- ◆ Activate security systems (if applicable)
- ◆ Secure sliding glass doors. Security bars are available in stores but a more simple solution would be to use a sturdy piece of wood in the door's track such as a rod or broom handle, etc.
- ◆ Make sure all windows are completely closed and locked before leaving your apartment or going to bed. An open window may be the sole reason for an apartment to be selected by a burglar. Locking hardware should be in good condition so it is easy to lock the window when you shut it. Even second story windows become attractive to burglars if they can be easily accessed from a stairway, tree, fence or balcony.



- ◆ Utilize window security pins that are used to prevent windows from being opened more than a few inches.
- ◆ If you have having difficulty closing or locking windows and doors, report the issue to building management immediately.
- ◆ Request management to trim landscaping that could be used by criminals to hide from view.

Get To Know Your Neighbors

- ◆ When you know your neighbors and the routines of your apartment complex, it is easier to identify and report suspicious activity. Get to know your neighbors on each side of your apartment and those directly across from you. Communicate often and establish trust.

Create An Appearance of Occupancy

- ◆ Burglars tend to break into homes that are unoccupied such as when you are at work or on vacation. Be sure to collect your mail, newspaper and packages on a daily basis. Arrange for a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail from a mailbox so it does not pile up when you are on vacation or cancel newspaper and mail delivery.
- ◆ Have a friend visit the apartment for a couple of hours several times during your vacation.
- ◆ Do not announce on social networking sites that you will be going on vacation.

General Security Guidelines

- ◆ Most apartment burglars are looking for items that are small, expensive and can easily be converted to cash such as jewelry, electronic devices and guns. Do not leave valuables and cash in plain view.
- ◆ Park in well lit areas and stay alert when entering your apartment.
- ◆ Look and see who is in the elevator before entering. If you feel uncomfortable, do not enter the elevator and wait for the next one.
- ◆ People living alone should not place their full name on the identification slot or telephone directory. Adding a second initial— A. & B. Doe, rather than A. Doe — makes it appear that two people are living in the apartment.

Additionally For Property Managers—

- ◆ Interior lighting in lobbies and corridors should not be on an accessible switch but should instead be controlled by a timer or photocell.
- ◆ Laundry room door locks should require a tenant or owner key and the laundry room door should have a window in it.
- ◆ Multi residential complexes will usually have office, grounds and maintenance employees. Care should be taken in the employment and supervision of these employees because they have special access to apartments and often the trust of residents.



Should any of these items need addressing in your apartment complex, contact property management with your concerns.

Contact police immediately if suspicious activity, persons or vehicles are observed.

For more information, contact the Colonie Police Department Community Services Unit at 782-2662.