

## Off-Campus Living Safety Tips

Common sense precautions can reduce your vulnerability to both personal and property crimes.

**YOU** – if you are alone never reveal that to anyone either on the phone or at your door. Call out in a loud voice, “I’ll get it!” when there is a visitor at the door to imply that you are not alone. Stay sober and coherent. Persons under the influence are much more likely to be the victim of a serious crime or accident or to victimize others.

**Locks** – always keep doors and windows to your house or apartment locked, especially when you are alone, sleeping, or if left unoccupied (even if only for a few minutes). Immediately report any malfunctioning doors, windows, or locks as well as overgrown shrubbery that may block your view. Keep your windows covered at night. Most burglaries involve unlocked doors, so locking up is the single most effective action you can take to reduce theft.

**Strangers** – do not allow strangers into your building or apartment. Request to see identification from all repair or delivery persons. Report strangers seen loitering or wondering around outside your dwelling and all obscene or harassing phone calls to the police.

**Keys** – never loan anyone your key, even a close friend. Always have your key ready to unlock your door when approaching. Do not place identifying marks on your keys, such as your full name or address. If you lose your keys report it immediately and request your locks be changed.

**Surroundings** – be aware of deserted laundry rooms, common lounges, basements, parking garages, and elevators, especially late at night. Avoid walking alone at night, if you must stay in well-lighted and open areas.

**Belongings** – keep valuables, such as wallets, jewelry, and purses, out of plain view in your home and car. Do not leave belongings unattended in common areas. Engrave your belongings with your name and contact information. Avoid carrying large sums of cash. Lock your bicycle and remove front tire is applicable. If you must leave something in your car, lock it in the trunk out of sight.

**Suspicious activities** - be alert to anything that seems even slightly “out of the ordinary” for the area or time of day in which it occurs. Strangers going into your neighbor’s place, in your building/complex trying doors to find one unlocked, or wandering around bike racks. Listen for screams heard anywhere or persons running while carrying something of value, this may indicate that a crime is in process and it needs to be reported.

**Be aware of your surroundings. Safety and security are everyone’s responsibility.**

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