

Preventing Home Burglaries in Multi-Family Housing

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Protecting Today.
Securing Tomorrow.



YOU are an important partner in the fight against crime.

The apartment lifestyle makes it easy for criminals to observe the behavioral patterns of residents. In many cases, the burglar may live in the same neighborhood or be acquainted with your neighbors – so be aware!

Steps Apartment Residents Can Take

Keep your windows and doors locked especially when you're gone. This includes patio doors and windows on upper floors. Make it a habit to always lock the door behind you, whether you're entering or exiting. Never leave a door unlocked for friends or roommates – and lock the door even if you're just leaving for a moment to take out the trash or check the mail. When you're home, only open windows in rooms you're occupying at the time, and use security latches on windows to prevent them from being opened more than six inches.

Make your home look and feel "lived in." When away, have your mail held at the post office and hold the newspaper or other deliveries. When gone for several days, leave a radio on at a conversational level, and use timers for lights – or leave a lamp on (use a cool LED light bulb that won't get too hot and cause a fire) in one or two rooms.

Make friends with your neighbors, and ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your apartment and remove any door hangers or package notifications. Many burglaries occur when an apartment is unoccupied, so don't make it obvious you're not home.

Keep blinds or curtains closed. Don't tempt potential thieves by allowing them to see all the great things you have inside your home.

Be aware sliding doors are notoriously easy to open. Keep them locked, and use a pole in the sliding track to prevent them from being forced open. Older sliding doors can often be jiggled off the track and be pulled out of the frame!

Be aware of strangers "milling around" the apartment community aimlessly, trying doorknobs, or looking through windows of apartments and vehicles. Often burglars will carry empty backpacks or knapsacks to carry stolen property away. Trust your instincts; if it doesn't look right, it probably isn't. Call the police to report suspicious persons and activities.

Be aware when using modern technology. Social media (paired with GPS-enabled mobile devices) has created more ways

to easily divulge sensitive information and make it available to a larger group of people – some of which may include individuals who do not have your best interests in mind.

The average Facebook user has about 340 friends — which means he/she also has about 115,600 friends of friends. And even if you are careful about friends you accept, there's no way of knowing how careful your friends are.

Don't announce your plans for the night on social media or "check in" somewhere. Criminals (who may be friends of friends on social media) can follow your comings and goings on social media and get to your home in a hurry, especially if they're monitoring your activities on a mobile device! Be careful when sharing details about your life and posting potentially sensitive information about your whereabouts. You can always post where you were after the fact and your connections won't miss a thing.



Contact