

Security Checklist

OUTSIDE THE UNIT

- Are the buildings and grounds well maintained?
- Are the entryways, sidewalks, and parking areas well lit?
- Are entryways visible from the street?
- Are the residents' names printed on the mailboxes?
- Is the mailbox lockable and in good condition?
- Are the lots and surrounding streets free of abandoned cars?
- Is parking usually available close to your door?
- Is the area well lit at night and on weekends?
- Are there designated visitor parking spaces?
- Does the apartment complex provide security services (patrols, escorts)?
- Do neighbors feel safe?
- Is the building close to high-traffic, well-traveled areas?
- Are shrubs cut below window level?
- Are tree limbs cut above window level so that you can see in and out of your home?
- Is the unit number visible from the street?
- Is the property near fire stations and other emergency services?
- Are the alleys around the residence clean?

IN THE UNIT

- Are the exterior doors made of core wood or metal?
- Do the doors have knob locks, chains, deadbolts, and/or peepholes?
- Is there a security system in the building?
- Is there a sufficient number of working smoke detectors in the living space and in hallways? Are they hardwired?
- Are there adequate emergency escape routes in the event of a fire?
- Are there fire extinguishers?
- Do curtains, blinds, and draperies fully cover windows?
- Are there safe places to go in case of a tornado?
- Is there a high turnover of residents?

ENTRANCE TO THE UNIT

- Can the main entryway be easily seen from the street even at night? Is it well lit?
- Are there sturdy locks on all the windows?
- Are security bars/screens provided if it is a ground floor or basement unit?
- Are doors to the laundry room kept locked?
- Does the landlord have a published policy about issuing and replacing keys?
- Does the building have a doorman or buzzer for guests and deliveries?
- Are locks on the doors of the buildings and apartments adequately secure?
- Is there a peephole at the door?
- Do the front and rear doors have 180-degree peepholes?
- Do doors have deadbolt locks?
- If door hinge pins are outside, are they non-removable?
- Does the door securely fit the jamb?
- Is the strike plate securely fastened to the door jamb?
- Is the door jamb fastened tightly?
- Does the bolt extend sufficiently into the strike plate?
- Are key control procedures used to ensure that locks are changed when keys are lost or not returned?
- Are you informed of who has keys to your living space?
- Do sliding glass doors have blocking cleats to prevent opening from the outside?
- Can windows be left open for ventilation be secured?
- Are window air-conditioners secured from the inside?
- Are door locks located so they can't be reached through a window?