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?
- Is security utilized?
- What are crime rates and procedures for reporting crimes to police?

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

√ Check Out Your Building

- Is there some kind of control over who enters and leaves the building?
- Are walkways, entrances, parking 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 an help each other.
- If you live in a large building or complex, think about a tenant patrol that watches for crime around the building, provide escort services for the elderly and those needing assistance, and monitor comings and goings in the lobby.
- Work with landlords to sponsor social events for tenants — a Sunday breakfast, a picnic, a holiday party.
- Look beyond problems to root causes — does your building need better playground, a social evening for teens, a tenants association, new landscaping, a basketball hoop? Work with the landlord for changes that make everyone proud of where they live.