

OFF-CAMPUS LIVING SECURITY CHECKLIST



Please use this checklist to help you decide about the security of the off-campus housing you are considering. Visit the neighborhood during the day and at night. Check the following items:

Exterior:

Are the buildings and grounds well maintained?
 Are the entryways, sidewalks, and parking areas well lit? Are they visible from the street?
 Are the residents' names (first and last) printed on the mailboxes?
 Are the mailboxes lockable and in good condition?

Parking:

Are the parking lots and surrounding streets free of abandoned cars?
 Is available parking close to the door?
 Is there room to park closer to your door at night and on weekends?

Doorways/Windows:

What kind of security is at the entrance? Does your property door have a peephole?
 Can police or passersby see the entryway? It should be well lighted at night.
 Are the doors and windows easily visible and not obscured by trees and bushes?
 Are curtains, shades or blinds provided?
 Do the doors and windows have sturdy locks?
 The windows should also have key locks.
 The door should have hinges on the inside, not the outside.
 The door should have a deadbolt lock. Chain locks and knob locks are not sufficient.
 The door should fit tightly in the frame. No more than 1/8" clearance.

Other Considerations:

Are the laundry doors locked?
 Does the apartment complex provide security services such as security patrol? Safety escort?
 Does the policy on lending keys protect your security?
 Never put ID tags on your key ring/holder. If thieves get your keys, they will find your home easily.
 Do you know your roommates' security habits?
 No matter how careful you are, your property won't be secure if you roommates leave the door unlocked.
 Is the turnover rate relatively low? A high turnover may indicate problems.
 Talk to your prospective neighbors. Do they feel safe?
 What does the local police department say about the rate and type of crime in the neighborhood?

If you have any further questions after completing this checklist, you may call your local police crime prevention officer.