



Apartment Living Safety Tips

It is important for every resident to take an active role in the safety and security of the people residing in your apartment complex. Neighbors have to look out for each other. Please consider the following safety suggestions.

- *Get to know your neighbors. Join or organize an Apartment Watch group so neighbors can look out for and help each other.*
- *Think about starting a "tenant patrol" that watches for crime around the buildings, parking lots and common areas such as pools or tennis courts.*

Vehicles

- *Most thieves look for easy targets so keep your vehicles secure by keeping the doors locked and windows closed at all times.*
- *Keep valuables out of sight by locking them up in the trunk or bring them into your apartment. Even loose change is a temptation.*
- *Use a vehicle Anti-Theft device such as the "CLUB." It is a strong deterrent for auto thieves.*
- *Never hide a spare set of keys anywhere on your car.*
- *Never leave your car with the engine running. It only takes a few seconds for a thief to steal it.*

Apartment

- *Get in the habit of locking your door behind you when you enter your apartment.*
- *Most apartments have a peephole on the front door. Utilize this before opening the door when someone knocks.*
- *Do not store bicycles or other valuables on balconies, thieves are surprisingly creative when they see something they want.*

- Document all serial and model numbers of your valuables on Operation Inventory forms. These forms are available online at www.tampagov.net/police or through the District's Crime Prevention Unit. Operation Inventory is a crime reduction program designed to assist with the identification, recovery, and return of stolen property. Store this form in a safe location.
- Put a wooden rod or metal brace in the track of your sliding glass door so it cannot be opened and a pin in the overhead frame so it cannot be lifted out.
- If decorating your doorway entrances with plants or ornaments be careful not to create an "ambush" setting. Make sure you can be seen entering & leaving by other apartment residents.

Personal Safety

- Know your surroundings.
- Look around and be confident when walking from your vehicle or mailbox to your apartment. Many criminals do not want to be seen.
- Have your keys ready when walking to your car or apartment.
- If you feel threatened yell for help and call 911.

How you can help

You can assist your apartment complex by reporting any problems that you notice such as broken or missing lights, missing or broken fences, vandalism, or garbage on the common grounds to your manager.

Always report suspicious behavior to the Tampa Police Department and give a good description of the vehicle (year, make, model, and tag) or persons (age, height, weight, clothing) you suspect of illegal activity. Give their direction of travel.

Report the sound of breaking glass, someone looking in vehicles, trying door handles, suspected drug activity, and domestic disputes.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 9-1-1

Non-Emergency 231-6130

Crime Prevention Unit in District Two 931-6541

For more informative crime tips please visit the Tampa Police Departments web page at:
www.tampagov.net/dept_police