



## APARTMENT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Make sure your doors have good locks. Contact your local locksmith or your local law enforcement agency crime prevention unit if you have questions regarding locks.
- After moving to a new apartment, insist the landlord replace or re-key the old locks. Previous tenants or former employees may still have keys to your apartment.
- Keep doors locked at all times, even if you are just going next door.
- Like your doors, keep your windows locked and secured.
- Do not leave keys under door mats.
- Never carry items on your key chain that can be traced to your address.
- Never open the door automatically after a knock. Insist that callers identify themselves. Police officers will display credentials whenever asked.
- You should always request salesmen and repairmen to show identification prior to being admitted into your home.
- Don't advertise you live alone. Use initials on mailboxes and for telephone listings.  
Example: J. M. Smith  
Example: Answering Machine. "We" are unavailable to take your call...
- Curtains and drapes should give the apartment a lived in appearance and not be closed 24 hours a day. Exception: Bedroom and bathroom drapes can be closed for extended periods without giving the apartment an unoccupied appearance.
- Leave a radio or television playing at a normal volume while you are absent.
- Leave lights on in the apartment at night while you are away. **Remember...its the "lived-in" look.**

- For extended absences (such as a vacation), use inexpensive plug-in timers that will turn lights and radios on and off. It is recommended the timer turn the lights off at normal retiring times.
- Do not leave notes on the door or in mailboxes indicating your absence.
- Be alert to protect your neighbors as well as yourself. Never mention to a stranger that a neighbor lives alone or is home alone.
- When a stranger asks to use your telephone, do not permit the person to enter. Offer to summon emergency assistance or make the call for them.
- Should a wrong number call be received, never reveal your name, address or admit that you are alone.
- Be cautious about entering an apartment building elevator, it is wiser to remain in the lobby for a few minutes if there is a potential problem.
- When using the laundry room, don't remain there alone. People have been assaulted in these areas.
- Report all strangers loitering in or around your apartment building to the police as well as the apartment management.
- If you see your apartment has been broken into, **do not enter**. Go to another location and call 9-1-1.
- While walking to your apartment, observe the doors of other apartments. If any appear to have been tampered with, call police.
- Make an effort to acquaint yourself with the occupants of nearby apartments, even if its just by sight.
- Do not let newspapers and mail accumulate in front of the apartment door or mailbox. Have a trusted friend or apartment manager pick up all such materials.

**Apartment managers....**Do not designate parking stalls with apartment numbers. An absent car could indicate the apartment occupant is not home. Female occupants could be followed to their parking stalls by a molester who would be able to learn the female's apartment number.

Remember...Deny...Delay...Deter...Reduce the possibility of your apartment being burglarized.

If you have any questions about apartment safety, contact the **Cobb County Police Department Community Education Unit** at (770)499-4134.