



TIP OF THE WEEK

Apartment and Condominium Safety

As students, many of you are living in an apartment or condominium far away from home. For some, this is a first time adventure that may be full of unwelcome surprises. When it comes to safety in your home you must rely on good judgment. Here are some Do's and Don'ts supplied by the Edmonton Police Service to help make your new adventure a little safer:

DO:

- Do make sure all doors are locked after entering or exiting your building.
- Do ensure that the parkade car entrance door closes fully when entering or exiting, this will keep others out.
- Do notify the resident manager immediately when you notice suspicious people or vehicles in the parkade.
- Do ensure all valuables have been taken out of your vehicle and that the vehicle is locked when parked.
- Do confirm whom you are allowing into the building, especially through the intercom.
- Do pay notice to people inside your building if they look out of place or suspicious. Say "Hello!" and ask if they live in the building. Thieves hate attention.
- Do report suspicious people in or around the building property to the resident manager or call Police if warranted.
- Do record all serial and model numbers, and engrave all your property.
- Do make sure parkades, hallways and entrances are well lit. Notify the building manager if lights are burnt out.
- Do get to know your neighbors. Learn whom you can trust and let them know when you are going to be away. Keeping informed and watching your neighbor's apartment is a great safety feature.
- Do be aware of your surroundings, especially in the laundry rooms, parkades and elevators.
- Do change the locks immediately when moving into a new residence. The residence manager should be able to assist you.
- Do use your through-the-door viewer (or 'peep hole'). If there is not one on your door, have one installed. A viewer with an 180 degree angle is the best
- Do have your key ready as you approach the door. Do not hide spare keys.
- Do have emergency phone numbers listed on or near your phone.
- Do have an 'escape plan' that allow you to leave your residence quickly.

DO NOT:

- Do not allow access to anyone you do not know or do not recognize. If you feel uncomfortable or impolite closing the door on a stranger when you enter the building, please consider it is for your own safety and the safety of your property.
- If a stranger comes to the door asking to use your phone, offer to make the call for them. Do not let them in.
- Do not give personal information to telephone solicitors or to 'wrong number' callers. Ask, "What number did you dial?" and just tell them, "You reached the wrong number".
- Do not get on an elevator if there is someone on it you do not feel good about. Wait for the next one. Always stand near the elevator's control panel. This will allow you to get off on the next floor or sound the emergency alarm should you encounter a problem.
- Do not allow trees to block the view of your windows. Let people see what is going on outside your windows or patio doorways. Always close your curtains or blinds after dark.
- Do not put your name beside the apartment number at the entrance. Use "occupied" or nothing.
- Do not leave the opening to your mailbox uncovered, so no one can see if there is an accumulation of mail. Consider asking a friend or neighbor to take in your mail when you are away. In an apartment situation, you may ask the rental office to collect the mail until you return.
- Do not leave your lights on all night when you are away. This draws attention to your apartment especially if all other apartments in the area are dark. Use a light timer set in different rooms with different start/stop times to give your apartment an appearance of being occupied.
- Do not assume your apartment is safe from unlawful entry, even on the higher levels. Always lock your balcony doors and/or place a wooden stick cut to fit the slide area at the bottom of the door thus preventing it from being opened from the outside.

These few 'Do's' and 'Don'ts' could spell the difference between an enjoyable and a painful experience.



TIP OF THE WEEK

If you have information regarding a crime, contact Protective Services at 780-471-7477. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your identity will remain anonymous, and if the information you provide leads to a conviction, you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$2000.00.

Everybody benefits, except the criminal.