General Safety Tips

Never leave your key outside under a mat or in a place accessible to a stranger.

Never leave notes on your door or messages on your answering machine indicating that you are away.

Purchase renter's insurance. It is not that expensive, and may save you money if there is an accident or a burglary.

Keep emergency numbers near the phone.

Know your roommates' security habits. You are only as safe as your roommates allow you to be.

Trust your instincts. They are the most reliable guides.

Always lock your apartment door even when you are home.

Never open your door to anyone you don’t know - ask for ID.

Never leave your valuables in plain view.

Always lock your car and/or bicycle.

Keep windows locked when you are not home or sleeping.

When walking, stay in a well-lit area and know where you’re going.

Always keep doors and windows locked.

Ask to see company ID when utility or service people come to your door.

Use a peephole to determine who is knocking before you open the door. If you are still unsure about who is there, question the stranger through the door.

If necessary, get a security system.

Keep the blinds or drapes closed when you are gone.

If you lose your keys, work with the landlord to replace your locks immediately.

Don't put ID tags on your key ring.

Have someone check on your place when you are out of town, and have the post office hold your mail. If you subscribe to papers, hold those as well.

Get to know your area. Know where not to walk, and where streets and alleys lead.

Do not walk alone after dark. Contact a friend to take you where you need to go.

Get to know someone in the immediate vicinity that you can call in case of an emergency.