

# APARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

## Building

- Never allow strangers into the building when entering or exiting. Be aware of suspicious people loitering near the entrance. They may reach for the open door.
- Stay alert when entering your apartment complex. Don't be distracted (i.e. using your cell phone). Criminals look for a weak target. They are more likely pass someone who appears focused, aware and strong.
- Never buzz anyone you do not know into the building. If someone should legitimately be inside the complex area, prior arrangements would have been made with the tenant and/or property owner.
- Get to know the people who live on your floor. This will help you identify strangers. Good neighbours look after each other.
- Report any poorly lit areas like entranceways and hallways or any overgrown shrubbery to the property owner.
- Only list your first initial and your last name on the tenant directory board.

## Elevator safety

- See who is in the elevator before entering. If someone looks suspicious do not enter - wait for the next one to come.
- When in the elevator, stand near the control panel so you can easily press the alarm/emergency button.
- If a suspicious person enters the elevator after you, exit before the doors close.

## Suite

- Ensure that all the locks have been changed prior to moving in.
- If you lose your keys, immediately replace your locks.
- All suite doors should have peepholes. If you do not have one, request one.
- Regardless of how long you are away, always lock your door. Criminals can enter your suite in seconds.
- Collect your newspapers and other packages on a daily basis - never let your mailbox overflow.
- Purchase timers for your indoor lights. Set them to turn on when you are gone for the evening.
- Keep a broom handle or longer piece of wood in the track of any sliding glass doors to prevent them from being opened from the outside.
- Make a list of your valuables and keep accurate logs. Include identifying factors like serial numbers or engravings.

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## Going on vacation

- Inform a trusted neighbour when you are leaving and when you expect to return. Ask them to pick up any items that are left outside your door or mailbox.
- Cancel all deliveries, like the newspaper, during your vacation.
- Do not leave a voice message indicating that you are out of town.

**Your best weapon is your brain. Use common sense, imagination, and good judgment.**