

LIVING OFF-CAMPUS

SAFETY FEATURES AND TIPS

Use this guide as you review the available safety features when selecting an apartment and as a general resource for safe, off-campus living.

SAFETY FEATURES TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU RENT:

- Does the apartment have metal or solid core wooden entry and exit doors? Are these doors equipped with deadbolts or shielded doorknob locks? Are the locks and strike plates mounted securely?
- Have the locks been re-keyed since the last tenant moved out? You have the right to ask your landlord to change or re-key the locks to your unit before you move in. You never know who may still have a key.
- Can visitors be observed without opening the apartment door either through a door peephole or window? If your front door does not have a peephole, consider having one installed (check with your landlord). Check to see who is at the door before answering, especially when home alone.
- Does the complex have a code of conduct policy that holds residents accountable for violations and disturbances?
- Are all first floor, fire escape, or other accessible windows equipped with locks? If equipped with security gratings, can they be opened from the inside for emergency exit?
- Do any trees or bushes block doors or windows from public view? Does the vegetation provide places of concealment at entrances and along walkways?
- Is there adequate lighting at the building entry doors and along walkways? Are the outer doors kept locked at all times?
- Does the apartment have a smoke detector and at least two emergency escape routes?
- Does the apartment have provision for the installation of a telephone?

EXTENDED LEAVES

Take these extra precautions to protect your home if you will be away for an extended period of time:

- Make sure all doors and windows are securely locked.
- Close all blinds so strangers can't peek inside.
- Hide electronics/other valuables or take these items with you.
- Disconnect power cords and electrical appliances that will not be in use.
- Try to make your home look occupied by leaving a few lights on or setting up lamps on a timer.
- Have your mail and/or newspaper delivery temporarily held while you are away. Visit holdmail.usps.com to schedule this service with the local post office.
- Have a trusted friend or neighbor check on your property. Make sure they have a phone number to contact you in case of an emergency.



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QUESTIONS?

Contact the Dean of Students Office at (813) 974-6677 or visit us at [f /USF Dean of Students](https://www.usf.edu/deanofstudents).

Information provided by the University of South Florida, the Police Department, and the Crime Prevention Unit.

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