

SAFETY

you make it happen

police.wustl.edu



**Living
off campus**



Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University's location at the edge of the city of St. Louis, surrounded by suburban neighborhoods, is an asset to those who study and teach and work here. The surrounding neighborhoods provide a variety of living choices to students, faculty, and staff.



Washington University has a long-standing commitment to the safety of its community members. But staying safe is the responsibility of each individual, whether on or off campus.

If you live off campus, your apartment or home is located in a community outside the university campus, served by the local police in University City, St. Louis, or Clayton. In any emergency, please call your local police immediately at 9-1-1.



If you live off campus, we recommend that you take the following precautions for your own protection.

Apartment security

- Keep your apartment doors and windows locked, even while at home.
- If you have a sliding glass door, use a drop bar so it cannot be opened from the outside.
- Use a peephole before opening a door when someone knocks; if your apartment does not have a peephole, contact your landlord and request one.
- Don't open your door to a stranger, including maintenance persons you don't know. Verbally answering questions through the closed, locked door lets them know someone is at home. If someone says he or she is there to perform maintenance, call your landlord to confirm that work is scheduled to be done.
- Never "hide" a spare key outside your apartment; if you lose a key, contact your landlord and ask for the locks to be changed.
- Always close and lock exterior doors to your apartment building! Never prop open exterior doors and if you find a door propped open...close it!
- If your building is equipped with an intercom system, never "buzz" the door for persons you do not know!
- If you need to post your name on a mailbox or intercom system, list only a first initial and last name.

Areas where the University owns property are patrolled from 6 p.m.-2 a.m. by the Washington University Police Neighborhood Security Patrol. Blue light telephones in some neighborhoods ring directly to the police that serve the neighborhood.



Using the laundry

- Avoid using the laundromat in your apartment complex by yourself, especially at nighttime. Team up with a neighbor or friend.
- Before entering the laundry area, check to make sure only persons you know or recognize are there. If someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable, leave the area and call Police immediately.
- Keep the door to the laundry closed and locked. Never prop open the door, even for a short time.
- Carry a cellphone.

Personal safety

- Know your neighborhood. Know where to walk.
- Avoid walking or jogging alone, especially at night.
- Be aware of your surroundings, and avoid distractions like loud music and talking on your cellphone.
- Walk in well-lit areas and avoid short cuts through alleys, parks, and vacant lots.
- Cross the street or change directions if someone is following you. Always head for a well-lit, populated area and call Police immediately. Do not go home.
- Carry a whistle to summon help when you walk or run.
- Have your keys out and ready while approaching your apartment or vehicle doors.
- If confronted by a thief, give them what they want and don't chase them. Blow your whistle.
- You may encounter people who will try to stop you and ask for money. This is called panhandling and, in many areas, it is illegal. Don't stop and give money to panhandlers — just keep walking. Consider alternate ways to donate money or time through community service.



If you're going away for a long weekend or holiday break...

- Don't advertise that you are away. Never leave notes on your door, answering machine, or social networks indicating you are out of town.
- Let a neighbor or friend know when you are gone and plan to return.
- Close blinds and drapes. Leave a light and radio on, or set a timer.
- Stop your mail or newspaper, or arrange to have a neighbor or friend pick them up daily.
- Avoid leaving valuable items such as jewelry and expensive electronics.

What to do when you see something suspicious

Report suspicious persons or activity immediately to Police by calling 9-1-1.

Examples of suspicious activity might include:

- Strangers knocking on your door;
- Strangers entering or leaving your neighbor's apartment or loitering in hallways or outdoor areas, such as between buildings, bike racks, carports or garages, or on sidewalks;
- Persons seen trying doors or looking into windows of buildings or vehicles;
- Suspicious sounds like screams or breaking glass.

If in doubt, call Police!



What to do if your apartment looks as if someone has entered

If you do arrive home to find your door ajar, hear unusual sounds, or believe your apartment has been broken into, DON'T GO IN! Call Police immediately.

What to do if you note a security concern

If you identify a security concern at or around your apartment building, contact your landlord immediately.

Examples include:

- Doors that won't close;
- Locks that don't work;
- Windows that won't close and/or lock;
- Lights that are burned out.

For Quadrangle Housing properties:

Call the Quadrangle Housing Office at 935-9511.

For Residential Life properties:

Call the Residential Life Office at 935-8828.

Other Police safety programs

WUPD offers several other items that can help take away the opportunity for crime to occur.

- High-security bike locks at a reduced rate
- The Club at a reduced rate to help secure your vehicle
- Self-defense classes
- Free safety whistles
- Apartment checklist

For more information on these and other programs, visit police.wustl.edu or call 314-935-5084.



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