Evaluating the Security of Your Rowhome or Apartment

This brochure is intended to be a starting point and includes a small sample of the kinds of questions you should ask your landlord/building manager. If there are concerns about specific issues in that otherwise “perfect” apartment, don’t be afraid to ask and negotiate with your landlord to make these security improvements. Be sure to get all of these commitments from them in writing as an addendum to your lease. If the landlord is unwilling to put it in writing, then he or she will probably be unlikely to follow through. In addition, all of the commercially managed buildings listed with us are now required to include all of the property’s security measures in their descriptions.

Home Security Inspections Provided by JHU Security

JHU Security provides home inspections of your off-campus apartment or home free of charge. They will check your locks, window and doors. They will make sure there is adequate lighting and check the smoke and carbon monoide detectors. Throughout the process, the Security Officer will make recommendations and offer advice to help make living off-campus safer and less worrisome.

For more information, please contact Lt. Bruce Miller at 410-516-4671 or via email at bmille45@jhu.edu

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following offices:

JHU Security
Emergency: 410-516-7777
Information: 410-516-4600
Escort Vans/Walking: 410-516-8700

Carrie Bennett,
Office of the Dean of Student Life
Student/Community Liaison
Tel: 410-516-2359
Email: liaison@jhu.edu
Website: www.shushlady.com or http://web.jhu.edu/ liaison

Off-Campus Housing Office
Tel: 410-516-7961
Website: www.jhu.edu/hds/offcampus
Email: offcampus@hd.jhu.edu

Tips and what to look for when you are searching for a new place to live.
Exterior Doors
All doors are locked all the time – especially when leaving the house even for a few minutes - and have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.

Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad with wide-angle peepholes at heights accessible to everyone.

If there are glass panels in or near the door, they are reinforced so they cannot be shattered.

Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor or friend, not under a doormat, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.

Garage and Sliding Doors
The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt

The overhead garage door has a lock so that the automatic door opener is not the only security measure. Be sure all garage doors are locked when leaving the house and the sliding glass door has strong, working key locks

A dowel or pin to secure any glass doors has been installed to prevent the door from being lifted off its tracks. And the sliding door is locked at all times

Windows
Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned. Windows are always locked. There should be a pin or window stop to provide security even when they are only opened a few inches. Install AC units securely so that it cannot be removed easily by a burglar.

Outdoor Security
Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is nowhere for anyone to hide and there are no dark areas around the house, garage, or yard at night that could conceal prowlers.

Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate the entryway and floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.

Outdoor lights are on in the evening whether or not anyone is home. A photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system should be installed.

House number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property
Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks and are all locked after every use. Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed or are hidden from view and locked securely to a stationary point.

Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain and bikes are always locked even if they’re left for just a minute.

Valuable items such as televisions, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying numbers approved by the local police with an up-to-date home inventory which includes pictures. A complete copy should be kept outside of the house.

Security While Away from Home
At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, and the motion detector or other alarm system has been activated at night or when the house is empty.

Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped if no one will be home for an extended period of time. A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch the home if it will be empty for an extended period.

Apartment Additions
Does the landlord or building manager securely control all keys? Is there any control over who enters and leaves the building? Will the landlord or building manager change the locks if keys are lost/stolen?

Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and storage rooms well-lit 24 hours a day? Are fire stairs locked from the stairwell side above the ground floor so no one can enter? Are mailboxes in a well-traveled area and do they have good locks?

Are things well-maintained? Are burnt out lights replaced promptly, shrubs trimmed, and trash and snow removed quickly?