



Apartment Safety when you're on VACATION

Vacations are great, but if you'll be away from your apartment for more than a couple of days, take these extra precautions to help protect your home and property.

- 1) **Don't Tweet the Deets.** Be careful what you share on social media. While it's tempting to post on Facebook or Twitter that "I'm going home for a week – can't wait!" consider who your readers are. If you have a blog or any social media accounts where your followers are unknown to you – be discreet.
- 2) **Tell a Friend.** Hopefully, you have a neighbor who you trust at your apartment community. If so – tell her/him your travel plans and ask that he/she let you know if they notice anything suspicious. In addition to a trusted neighbor, let your property management team know that you'll be away.
- 3) **Halt the Mail.** If you'll be away for more than a 4-5 days, stop your mail. You can do so online up to 30 days in advance; visit www.usps.com and click on "Manage Your Mail."
- 4) **Clear the Deck.** Don't leave valuable personal belongings on your patio or balcony.
- 5) **Light Up.** Don't just leave the lights on constantly; that can look suspicious AND run up your electric bill. Instead, buy a light timer so that outside eyes think someone is at home.
- 6) **Lock Up.** Before you leave your apartment, be sure to lock ALL of the windows and exterior doors, taking extra care to set any deadbolts and alarms you have.
- 7) **Don't Talk to Strangers.** If you have a cab driving you to the airport, don't share the details of your travel plans with your driver.
- 8) **Rest Insured.** If you don't already have a renters insurance policy, consider investing in one. Rates can be surprisingly affordable to protect the value of your personal property.