

APARTMENT WATCH



Live in an apartment? Take action to prevent crime and start an ‘Apartment Watch.’

Just like Neighborhood Watch, members of an Apartment Watch learn how to make their homes more secure, how to watch out for each other and their community and how to report crime and suspicious activities to the police. Here are some ways to get an Apartment Watch going and growing.

WHAT DOES AN ‘APARTMENT WATCH’ DO?

- Organize citizen patrols to walk around the apartment complex and alert police to crime and suspicious activities. This includes the monitoring of parking lots, stairways, laundry rooms and playgrounds. Call 9-1-1 if you see anything suspicious; don’t personally intervene in a confrontational situation. Call 9-1-1!
- Publish a newsletter that gives local crime news, recognizes Apartment Watch captains and highlights community activities.
- Organize a reception in the lobby of your building or a cookout on common property so neighbors can get to know one another.
- Make sure that management provides adequate security.

STARTING AN ‘APARTMENT WATCH’

- Talk with your neighbors and solicit their support in watching out for each other. All it takes is “Neighbors Getting to Know Neighbors.”
- Schedule your first meeting. Provide at least a two week notice before your first meeting. After the first meeting, you can decide how frequently you would like to meet as an Apartment Watch group. Most groups find that monthly or quarterly meetings work best.
- Contact the Longmont Police Department at 303-774-4440 to arrange for a beat officer to speak with your Apartment Watch group about safety tips and current crime patterns.

WORKING TOGETHER

- Get to know your neighbors. An Apartment Watch group helps neighbors look out for and help each other.
- Consider a tenant patrol that watches for crime around the building, provides escort services for the elderly and disabled and monitors comings and goings in the lobby
- Work with landlords to sponsor social events for tenants
- Look beyond problems to root causes – does your building need a better playground, a social evening for teens, a tenant association or new landscaping? Work with the landlord for changes that make everyone proud of where they live.

CHECK OUT YOUR APARTMENT

- Does your entry door have a deadbolt lock and wide angle viewer?
- Does your sliding glass door have a wooden rod or metal brace in the track so it can’t be opened and pins in the overhead frame so it can’t be lifted out?
- Does your landlord or building manager tightly control all keys?

CHECK OUT YOUR BUILDING

- Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms and storage areas well-lit, 24 hours a day?
- Are fire stairs locked from the stairwell side above the ground floor so you can exit but no one can enter?
- Are mailboxes placed in a well-traveled, well-lit area and do they have good locks?
- Is the property well maintained – are burnt out lights fixed promptly, shrubs trimmed, trash removed?
- Check the complex on a regular basis for such problems as burned-out light bulbs, broken windows or windows that don't lock, dark corridors, uncollected trash or broken locks on mailboxes and doors. Report problems immediately to the building manager.
- Organize meetings to brainstorm how you can help each other, such as starting an escort service for the elderly or after-school care for children. Forming friendships and community networks benefit adults and children alike.

Take a Stand Against Crime. Join an APARTMENT WATCH!

Adapted from THE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL
<http://www.ncpc.org>