Safeguard Your Apartment.

TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

What Can I Do?

Always use a licensed locksmith. Use a deadbolt lock with a one-inch bolt throw or a heavy duty drop-bolt lock. Install a pick-resistant cylinder. Additional locks should be installed 12 to 18 inches above or below the doorknob. Consider children, the elderly, and/or the disabled before installing a lock too high. Do not use a double-cylinder lock; that is, a lock that has a key on both sides. It can be deadly if a fire breaks out.

Check your apartment door and door frame. Should they be repaired or replaced? All exterior doors should be either metal or solid core wood (1-3/4" thick).

If you live on the top floor of an apartment building, make certain that the roof door is closed, but unlocked. Under NYC Building Code regulations, a roof door may not be locked – temporarily or permanently. It must always allow for an emergency exit.

Do not enter or remain with a stranger in an elevator if you feel unsafe.

Use the intercom. Buzz people into your building ONLY when you are absolutely sure of the visitor’s identity.

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Window safety tips:

- Any window within 18 feet of ground level, a building projection, or a fire escape is considered to be an accessible opening that should be secured.
- If you live or work in a basement apartment, the windows may be secured with safety gates (or grilles) that contain a safety latch to allow for emergency exits.
- Do not assume that the basement windows are too small for entry. They are, in fact, one of the most popular points of entry for a burglar.
- The best and safest way to secure your fire escape or any first floor window is with a New York Fire Department-approved gate. This gate is commonly known as the "ferry" or "safety gate" and is operated by a latch (not a padlock or combination lock). DO NOT ACCEPT SUBSTITUTES.