

# QUICK TIPS: WINTER BREAK APARTMENT SAFETY



Consider sharing these enclosed safety tips to help your off-campus students secure their apartment while they are away during winter break. Unfortunately, thieves in your community know the college schedule, too. To deter them from targeting your off-campus apartment while you are away for winter break, there are some steps you can take to make your place more secure and look occupied.

## 1. Check the Locks

All windows and doors should be checked to be sure the locks are working properly. If possible, ask your landlord to install riser restrictors on the windows for added security.

## 2. Get to Know Your Neighbors

Your neighbors can help keep your apartment safe, also.

- They can **check in** a few times while you are away.
- If they have an **extra vehicle**, ask them to park in your driveway to give the appearance that someone is at your place.

## 3. Clean Up

You may not think of a messy apartment being a safety hazard, but it certainly can be!

- Do a general cleaning of your apartment. Put small electronics and other valuables out of sight of potential thieves.
- Clean out the refrigerator, too. This is more for personal health safety. You don't want to return to mold and mildew growing in your apartment.

## 4. Pay Your Bills

If you are going to be gone longer than a month, be sure to make arrangements to pay monthly utility bills.

## 5. Hold Your Mail

Contact the post office to hold your mail so it doesn't pile up letting people know you are gone.

## 6. Utilize Lighting

Use light timers so that your apartment isn't dark the whole time you're gone. If you don't already have them, ask your landlord to install motion sensor lights, especially in back yards.

## 7. Protect Against Cold Weather

If you are in an area where the temperatures become extremely cold, you may want to consider a few of the following tips.

- Ask your landlord to insulate pipes so they don't freeze and potentially burst while you are away.
- You should also keep the heat on just enough to keep the pipes from freezing.

Block by Block Campus Services Ambassadors are the perfect solution for assisting your campus security staff in making sure your students feel safe in their off-campus neighborhoods. They can provide safety escorts to and from campus, as well as report street light outages and maintenance issues that could cause safety concerns. They can also be utilized to help convey safety messaging to your students.

For more information about the full range of services our Ambassadors provide in the campus environment, please visit [www.bbbcampusservices.com](http://www.bbbcampusservices.com) or email Bill Woodward, Vice President of Campus Services at [bwoodward@blockbyblock.com](mailto:bwoodward@blockbyblock.com) or call at 314-502-3027.