

Preventing Theft

Minimize your chance of becoming a victim

Most crimes reported to the University Police involve property rather than personal danger. You can minimize your chances of becoming a victim by remembering that college campuses are not immune to crime. Follow these common-sense rules:

Lock Up!

Lock your residence hall or apartment door, even when you're home. Lock your car. Lock your bike. Lock your purse in a drawer in your office. Make use of available lockers.

*Lock your door when you leave, even if you're only leaving "just for a minute."
It only takes a thief 10 seconds to take something from your room or office.*

Lock your door when you're asleep or showering.

Don't hide the key to your room or apartment outside. Thieves are more experienced than you at inventing – and discovering – such hiding places.

*Lock your bike to an immovable object with a maximum security bike lock.
Don't leave notes on your door announcing that you are not at home.*

Don't leave things in the laundry room.

Don't prop open the door to a locked campus building or residence hall.

Close your curtains or blinds after dark.

Keep your car doors locked and the windows up – when the car is parked and when you're driving.

Don't leave your property unattended in the library, dining hall, classroom, restroom, or any campus facility.

Theft of backpacks and textbooks is common – the resale value of books makes them attractive targets for petty thieves. If you're leaving for a minute, take your things with you.

Identify Your Belongings

Put your name and address on textbooks – inside the cover and on an inside page or two. Engrave your personal code on items that might interest a thief – television sets, stereo equipment, radios, cameras, computers, appliances, sports equipment, bicycles, CD/DVD players and anything else that's portable and valuable.

Be A Little Suspicious

You may know your neighbors in your residence hall or apartment building are fellow students – but what else do you know about them? At best, most of the people in your building will be acquaintances. Until you know them well enough to be friends, don't take chances.

Don't lend your keys, student ID, driver's license, or meal ticket to anyone.

Don't open a building door for a stranger who doesn't have a key. Don't prop open a door either – and if you see one that is propped open, close it.

Report any suspicious behavior immediately to the University Police.