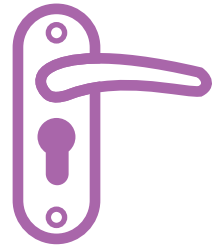


# Safeguard Your Apartment.

## 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.



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.



If you live on the top floor of an apartment building, make certain that the roof door is closed.



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).

#### 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 VMFD-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.**