

SAFETY & SECURITY



Having a nice-looking home with all mod-cons may be high up on the list of priorities when searching for your next student property, but essentially the property must be safe and secure.

Here are some tips on what security features to look for during your house-hunting, how to minimise the risk of burglary once you have moved in and keeping safe.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Is there a working burglar alarm?
- ✓ Is the house easy to secure?
- ✓ Are the external doors solid?
- ✓ Is there double glazing?
- ✓ Do the external doors have five-lever mortice locks?
- ✓ Are the windows secure and have locks?
- ✓ Is there good street lighting?
- ✓ What are the routes like to public transport?
- ✓ Are they well lit and would you feel safe walking at night?
- ✓ What is the local area like? Quiet or noisy?
- ✓ Is the outside of the property in good repair?
- ✓ Are there interlinked smoke alarms?
- ✓ Are there carbon monoxide monitors?
- ✓ Are there fire doors and fire blankets/extinguishers?

KEEPING YOUR ACCOMMODATION SECURE

Students own more small, expensive and easily sold consumer items than a typical family household, which makes rich pickings for burglars. Be careful not to become an easy target.

Lock all external doors even when you are at home. When you go out close all windows

If any locks are faulty, speak to your landlord to get them fixed

Don't leave packaging from expensive goods outside next to your bin. Take it to a recycling bin or the tip

In larger properties, be careful who you let into the communal areas and who follows you into the property

If there is access at the back of the property, always make sure that gates are locked and fences are secure

Leaving for the holidays? Take your valuables with you or leave them with trusted friends/family

Security mark your valuables with your postcode and house number

Don't leave your valuables on show



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FIRE SAFETY



Smoke detectors should be provided in your property. It's important to check them once a week.

Strobe light and vibrating pad alarms are available for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Contact West Midlands Fire Service for further details.

The fire service will visit your property free of charge to give fire awareness advice and where necessary, fit new alarms.

- Don't use a chip pan, instead buy a thermostatically controlled fat fryer
- Don't leave pans or grills unattended while cooking
- Never pour water onto a fat fire or attempt to carry a hot or burning pan
- Portable heaters should be at least 1 metre away from furnishings
- Some tenancy agreements state that you should not burn candles in the property. Candles should always be put in an appropriate holder and not left unattended or placed near furnishings
- Dispose of cigarettes correctly making sure they are put out properly and never smoke in bed
- If you suspect a faulty gas or electric appliance do not use it and report any faults to the landlord.

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SECURE THE WINDOW!



**DON'T INVITE UNWANTED GUESTS
INTO YOUR HOME BY LEAVING YOUR
WINDOWS UNSECURED**

THIEVES OPERATE DAY AND NIGHT

Opening the windows to ventilate your home is important to prevent mould and damp. Secure your UPVC window by only opening to the first stage locking point. If you leave the room or the house, secure fully by locking the window with the key.

Speak to your landlord or agent if you are unsure about how to use the first stage locking point, or if keys are missing.



LOCK THE DOOR

Burglars are known to try door handles to check if they are unlocked.

Lock all external doors, even when you are in, to reduce the risk of theft.

THE SILENT KILLER

Landlords have responsibilities for gas safety. They must arrange for a gas safety check to be carried out every 12 months by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

If you think a gas appliance is faulty turn it off and let your landlord know immediately. Seek medical help if you feel unwell.

6 main symptoms to look out for



Headaches



Nausea



Breathlessness



Collapse



Dizziness



Loss of Consciousness



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