THEFT PREVENTION

A secure environment is made possible through community involvement in crime prevention. The purpose of community crime prevention is simple: to help you recognize your own vulnerability to crime, and reduce your risk through preventive action and cooperation with the police.

Theft is the most common crime on the Berkeley campus. Most thefts occur during the daylight hours, and in 80% of reported thefts and burglaries, thieves enter the structure without forced entry. In your residence, living group, or office, exchange information about your schedules and watch your neighbors’ houses, rooms, and work areas. Report suspicious activities to one another and to the police.

Residence Halls
Overall a UCPD sergeant supervises security in UC residence halls. The residence halls are locked 24 hours a day, and entry is controlled by a mechanical key system. In addition, Community Service Officers patrol the residence halls during the evening hours, and each of the high rise buildings have a security monitor. Resident Assistants provide safety programs for students, especially at the beginning of the year, and the Residential Life Coordinator at each unit is linked with an officer at the UCPD for additional coordination and information exchange. More information about security measures in the residence halls is available in the Residential and Family Living publication, “The Guide to Student Living in the Residence Halls.”

Residential Theft Prevention Tips
UCPD encourages you to take responsibility for protecting your property. Here are a few tips for discouraging would-be thieves in your residence halls, houses, or apartments.

- Keep outside doors locked.
- Ask strangers to wait in common areas while their friends are summoned.
- Lock your room door and windows when you leave, even if only for a minute, and take your keys with you.
- Keep small valuable items out of sight, in a closed drawer, or another safe place.
- Politely offer assistance to persons in your building or residence you do not recognize. If they have legitimate business, they will appreciate your help. If they do not, ask them to leave.
- Keep your room locked when you are out during move-in. Do not leave your car unlocked when loading or unloading.
- Do not leave coats, books, or other valuable items in common areas. Keep them in your room.
- If you hear or see something suspicious, call the police immediately. Dial 911 from any landline phone (including pay phones). From a cell phone on campus, dial (510) 642-3333.

Apartment Living
In the City of Berkeley, rental units must have dead bolt locks on all doors leading to the outside. Make sure all hallways, entrances, garages, and grounds are well lit. Leave spare keys with friends—not under the doormat, in mailboxes, or in common sense hiding places.

TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION!
Security Surveys
Is your residence or office relatively safe from burglary and break-in? Have an officer from Crime Prevention identify areas in your home or office that may need security improvement. They can show you how to safeguard your apartment or office against unlawful entry and theft. For more information, or to arrange for a security survey, call (510) 642-0469. If you are off campus, call the City of Berkeley Police at (510) 644-6695, or consult the “Other Services/Contact Information” section of Safety Counts, for your local law enforcement agency.

City of Berkeley Police Department: Community Services Bureau
The City of Berkeley Police Department (BPD) through its Community Services Bureau works toward serving the concerns of Berkeley residents and merchants by identifying needs and solving problems using the principles of Community Involved Policing. The following are just some of the services that the Community Services Bureau provides:

- Neighborhood Watch
- Business Watch
- Partnership Against Crime (PAC) programs
- Street Survival Workshops (with the Berkeley Safe Neighborhood Committee)
- Crime Prevention - Personal Safety Presentations
- Home/Business Security Surveys (no cost security advice)
- "McGruff" (the Crime Watch Dog)
- Crime Prevention Library (video tapes, brochures)
- Vacation Notification Program
- Crime Statistics

For more information on these and other services offered by the City of Berkeley Police Department, Community Services Bureau contact them at (510) 644-6696.

University and Personal Property
Over $100,000 worth of University property and equipment is stolen annually from the Berkeley campus. Wallet, purse, and backpack theft make up a large percentage of personal property theft. If you work in an office, you can reduce the opportunity for theft by taking a few simple precautions:

- Do not leave your wallet/purse in unlocked desks, cabinets, or in the open
- Lock up your desk when you leave
- Lock your door when you leave, even if you are gone for a short time
- Create an office or building watch program within your building; work with other occupants to monitor offices and property
- Maintain strict key control to all offices in your building as required by the Campus Access Control Policy

Call the Crime Prevention Unit of UCPD at (510) 642-3722 if you would like suggestions on how to start an office or building watch program. If you would like a copy of the Campus Access Control Policy, visit our web site at www.berkeley.edu/ucpolice.

Property Lock-Down
Although no office or home is completely safe from theft, you can make it more difficult for a thief to steal your equipment or property, and improve the chances of recovering stolen property, by following the suggestions below:

- Keep an updated inventory of all office, lab, and home equipment
- Have all equipment locked down with an approved lock-down device
- Identify all University equipment by engraving on the top or front side
- Identify your personal property by engraving your California Driver’s License, do not use your social security number. If you live out of state, you can use that number followed by the abbreviation for the state of issue.

To borrow an engraver for university equipment, receive a copy of the approved lock-down vendor list for the campus, or to learn more about the UCB-ID program which provides zero-deductible insurance for University property, please contact Community Outreach at (510) 643-9375. If you would like to check out an engraver for use on your personal property, contact the UCPD - Records Division at (510) 642-6760.

Suspicious Persons/Behaviors
If you see a suspicious person in your building, ask if you can help them. If the person has legitimate business in the building, he or she will appreciate your assistance. If not, ask the person to leave the building, but only if you feel comfortable doing so. If the person refuses to leave, call the police. Be prepared to describe the person when you call police. The following are examples of behaviors that could be considered suspicious:

- A person or persons you, or the other residents/employees, do not recognize going from room to room or office to office
- A person or persons standing in a hallway for a long period of time
- A person or persons waiting outside of the building near the time that the building will be closing