NALS apartment homes

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SAFETY AWARENESS NEWSLETTER



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AVOID SLIPPING ON SNOW & ICE

Winter is known as the most slippery time of year because of the mix of high precipitation and low temperatures. Below are tips that can reduce the risk of getting hurt when you have to go outside in these conditions.

- Stay on designated walking paths and avoid routes that have not been cleared of snow or that appear to be glazed over.
- If you notice an area of snow or ice accumulation, let the management office know.
- Be alert for black or transparent ice, particularly in the days following a storm.
- Lightly apply ice melt to frequently used walkways.
- Be extra careful getting in and out of vehicles as snow tends to accumulate between vehicles.
- When entering a building, remove as much snow and water from your shoes as you can.





WINTER MOLD AND MILDEW PREVENTION

- Proper ventilation is essential. Weather permitting, open windows. Maintain a consistent temperature of between 50° and 70° Fahrenheit within your apartment.
- Use the bathroom fan or alternative ventilation when bathing or showering. Remove any moisture accumulation from glass shower doors immediately after showering.
- Use the exhaust fans in your kitchen when cooking or while the dishwasher is running.
- Report any evidence of a water leak or excessive moisture in your apartment, storage room, garage, or any common area.
- Report any evidence of mold growth that cannot be removed by simply applying a common household cleaner and wiping the area, or any mold that reappears despite regular cleaning.
- Report any failure or malfunction with your heating, ventilation, air-conditioning system, laundry system, or inoperable windows or doors.

HOW TO DETER CRIME

Nearly half of all home burglaries are committed without force — that is, through unlocked doors and windows! The following behaviors can help reduce the chance of these criminal occurrences.



- Always lock windows and doors to your home and vehicle.
- Get to know your neighbors; they can be your eyes and ears while you are away.
- Call the police if you see suspicious activity or individuals who don't belong on the property, such as those who may be homeless or are trespassing.
- All valuable items in your car should be in a locked glove box or trunk, never in plain sight where perpetrators can see them.
- Notify the leasing office if any lights go out in your apartment community.
- Consider using a personal home security system such as a front door security camera.

PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES

Frozen pipes are known to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in repairs annually across the United States. Since water expands when it freezes, pipes that freeze are likely to break or crack which causes water leaks and floods. If outside temperatures fall below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, the following winterization tips can prevent pipe freezes and floods.

- Maintain an indoor temperature of 55 degrees or higher at all times during freezing weather.
- Open closets and cabinet doors to allow warm air to ventilate plumbing fixtures and surrounding spaces.
- Open all faucets, including hot and cold, and open sink stoppers to allow a thin trickle of water to flow through the lines. This can prevent excessive water pressure from building up if there is ice accumulation in the pipe.
- Contact the leasing office if you have any questions about when or how to implement these winterization tips.



Since water expands when it freezes, pipes that freeze are likely to break or develop cracks.

HOME FIRE PREVENTION

Home fires are more prevalent in the fall and winter months than any other season according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Three common seasonal fires include:



- Oven or stove fires from an increase in cooking.
- Heat related fires from decorations being too close to a heat source, such as a fireplace or a space heater.
- Electrical fires from damaged cords or overloaded outlets.

Friendly Reminder: Propane fryers are not permitted for use anywhere on the property.

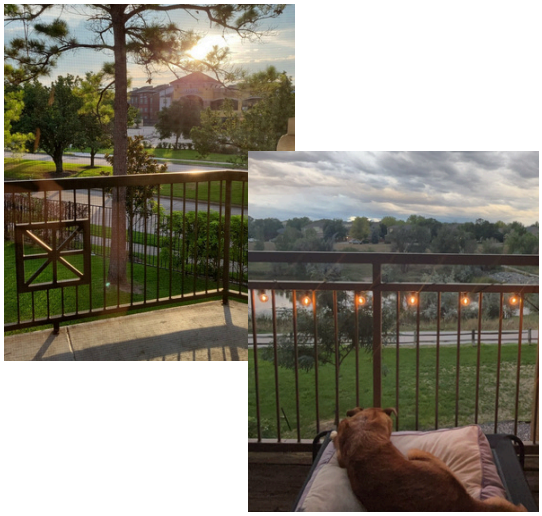
COLD WEATHER FIRE SAFETY

- Inspect holiday lights prior to use and discard lights with damaged wires.
- Avoid overloading outlets.
- When leaving the house or going to bed, unplug lights.
- Use a tree stand that will hold a gallon of water or more, and always keep the tree watered.
- Remove and recycle used trees from your home promptly after the holiday.
- Always set a timer when cooking to prevent food from burning.
- Never leave a stove unattended if cooking.

GENERAL FIRE SAFETY

- Never remove batteries from a smoke detector. If a fire does occur, the alarm could save your life and help minimize any damage caused by the fire.
- Find the location of fire extinguishers and exit routes before you need to use them.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat or power source and keep the oven door closed to prevent the flames from burning you or your clothes.
- Never place a charging battery or electrical item on the carpet as it could cause a fire to start.

BALCONY SAFETY



Winds are stronger on higher levels of a building compared to lower levels

As winter approaches, we encourage you to review the following balcony safety tips:

- Make sure all patio furniture is placed far enough away from the balcony to prevent climbing and accidental falling incidents, particularly when pets or children are present.
- Bring untethered or light objects indoors on a windy day.
- Do not place items directly on the balcony, as they may come loose and create a falling hazard.
- Never allow children or pets to be unsupervised on balconies or patios.
- Keep counterweights on hand for heavy or large furniture during storms.

Reminder: Don't GOOF!
How to Prevent Floods From Clogged Sinks



Did you know that pouring Grease, Oil, Or Fats (GOOF) down the drain or garbage disposal creates obstructions in underground pipes and creates serious problems like blockages and sewer overflows? When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of the sewer pipes. Over time, grease buildup can clog an entire pipeline, causing sewer overflows in your home.

To prevent floods and sewer overflows:

- Don't pour cooking oil, greasy food, dairy products, or salad dressing down the drain.
- Pour cooled grease into a disposable container and toss in the garbage.
- Mix cooled cooking oils with absorbent materials such as coffee grounds or cat litter, and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Wipe or scrape food particles from pots, pans, and dishes into the trash can before placing them in the sink for washing.
- Use strainers in the sink drain to catch food scraps and other solids.
- Do not use hot water and soap to try to wash grease down the drain.