

Vision of Life

Secure your own Home!

Read any newspaper today, especially city news page? What do we read? House breaking, Family robbed, An Old Lady mugged in the staircase of her apartment building!

Though I have touched this aspect of security earlier, after reviewing the scenario in the last few months I feel it is important to update ourselves once again on this subject. We have gone over the various reasons of increased crime rates today & accepting its related facts, now it's our turn to work out a strategy to prevent any such incidences in our complex. We agree that the Police can't protect us round the clock, as an alert citizen it's our responsibility too, to protect ourselves & others.

Role as Developer

Firstly, majority of the security systems can be installed only if they are planned in the layout of the buildings before the project starts. So it's important for the developer to study the lifestyle of the occupants in the project & then design the security measures. The fact is that knowing our lifestyle & social behavior, highly sophisticated gadgets like Security Cameras are not of much use. A single entry & exit system to the building is easy to guard. We can plan a safety gate & locking system at the entrance lobby level. Also, providing a compound wall of sufficient height, which segregates commercial & residential areas in the complex is must. Ample light points in & around the buildings, especially in the common areas is one aspect, which is usually neglected.



Try to avoid enclosed common places which later can act as hideouts, for eg Parking level service ducts. With minimum hideouts, the watchmen's job will be easy during patrolling.

Have a common toilet & change area for the security people near the entry gate since the intruders always sneak in when the security guards are in the changing rooms. Also if the rooms are far, the time required for routine freshening up activity increases.

Providing safety grills securely embedded in the masonry is also important if the windows are aluminum sliding windows. It's been observed that where the M.S.Grills have been fixed using regular screws the robbers have entered in the flat by removing the grill screws. Even the windows, which are opening in flat's own private terrace should be secured with the M.S.Grill. There has to be a safety door at all the entrances to the common areas such as common terrace, staircase as well lift lobby. This way we can restrict unauthorized personals entry to the same thus restricting their chances to reach the main door of apartments unnoticed.

Emergency alarm in stair/lift lobby must also be thought about. Presently in the market, there are many gadgets which have different alarms /warning calls in various emergencies. We must have a wiring provision & a power back for the same in case of electricity shutdown.

Lastly, the safety measures do not just end at precautions against robbers, it's very important to have contingency plans for emergencies such as fire or any mechanical accident in the complex. We must display all emergency numbers in each staircase lobby. Residents must be made aware about the systems that have been incorporated in the complex. This can be done in the meeting held by the builder while handing over the complex to owners.

As a Resident we can...

Be attentive to the safety measures applied by the developer when you sign the agreement and when you look for the amenities in your complex. Don't try to breach the safety norms in the complex, rather try to study them and adapt them to your lifestyle. If the builder hasn't provided a safety gate then have one out at your cost & see that it's properly installed. Don't send the security guards for your personal work like buying grocery or car washing. Keep an eye for any odd movement or incident in the complex premise.

Get into a habit of opening the main door of your home only after confirming the visitor. Remember, ultimately any such incident is never an accident, mostly our own careless habits get us into trouble. If we can't avoid it, we can at least try to reduce its possibility!



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