

Pre-Vacation Home Security Checklist

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME:

- Trim your hedges and mow your lawn.**
Make sure your home looks taken care of and don't provide a place to hide for any prowlers.
- Put all toys and yard supplies away, especially ladders.**
With everything away, you won't be giving potential thieves easy access to items to steal, or ways in your home.
- Move any spare keys that you place outside of your home to a safe location.**
- Park your car in the garage if you're not taking it with you.**
An unmoved car outside of your house will be an easy give away that no one is home!

INSIDE YOUR HOME:

- Turn off and unplug electronic devices.**
Unplug your small appliances like your coffee maker and toaster. Make sure to also unplug items that are easily susceptible to power surges like your TV and computer!
- Set some lights to timers.**
Timers make it look like someone is home by turning the lights on and off periodically.
- Adjust your shades so that many are closed.**
This way potential burglars cannot see in, but light from your timed lights can still make it appear that someone is home.
- Turn off water to your washing machine, dishwasher, and ice machine.**
With the water off, you don't need to worry about potential floods.
- Turn the gas off.**
- Clean out your refrigerator and toss any food that will go bad in your absence.**
The last thing you want when you return home is rotting food!
- Raise the temperature in your refrigerator.**
This will help keep the fridge from blowing a circuit, and save energy.
- Wash your dishes, and clean out the sink.**
Don't let mold grow while you're away!
- Clean out your garbage disposal by running it while pouring a half cup of vinegar and water through.**
- Lower the temperature in your house.**
Typically it's best to leave it around 75 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Move your valuables to a safety deposit box.**
Include family heirlooms and jewelry!

- Update your home security alarm to make sure it has the correct contact number for you, or anyone who may be housesitting for you while you're away!**
- Check all windows and doors to ensure they are closed and locked.**
Don't forget to secure and lock any dog doors!
- Set your alarm system.**

WITH YOUR COMMUNITY:

- Ask a neighbor to pick up any leaflets, newspapers, or flyers that people may leave for in your absence.**
Flyers on your door are a tell-tale sign that no one has been home!
- Ask the post office to hold your mail during your vacation.**
You can do this easily online and select the days of your trip, so you don't have to worry about missing any mail!
- Have your newspaper subscription suspended while you're away.**
- Select a trusted neighbor, friend or family member to be a key holder, just in case.**
Make sure they know how to contact you.
- Make sure your key holder has your safe word to your home security alarm.**
You can change your safe word to a temporary safe word for your vacation, to keep your primary safe word private.
- Ask a neighbor to move your trash cans to the curb, and take them back in on trash day.**
Even without trash in the cans, it will make it look like someone is home!
- If you have pets, make sure that you have all of their travel needs sorted out.**
Whether your pet is coming with you, you're having a pet sitter, or you're putting them in a kennel, make sure you have this sorted out well in advance.

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