



How to Protect Your Home and Property while You Are Away

So you've planned a vacation! How do you make sure your house and property will be safe while you're away? The goal is to make your house look like you're home. Experienced burglars will scout out neighborhoods and target homes that appear to be vacant. Here are a few tips to help you rest easy while you're away.

- Have a trusted friend or neighbor keep an eye on your home. The best choices are those who can see your house from their house.
- Have someone pick up your mail each day. Have them pick up your newspaper as well, or stop your service while you are away.
- Invest in timers for at least two lights or lamps in your home. Have them turn on and off while you are away at different times of the day. This makes it look like someone is home.
- Have a neighbor put out your garbage and recycling on pick-up day, and put it away promptly after.
- Have trusted friend or neighbor pop into your house a few times while you are away, at different times of the day.
- Get rid of the hide-a-key under the fake rock on the porch. The thieves know where to look. Don't make it easy for them!
- Hide or lock up small electronic items such a laptop computers and cameras while you are away. If you are the victim of a burglary, this will minimize the loss.
- If you'll be gone for a long period of time, have someone upkeep your lawn. A unkempt lawn in an otherwise manicured neighborhood announces that you aren't home, and haven't been for awhile.
- If you have an alarm, set it, and let the security company know that you will be away, and when you will be returning.
- Make sure all your doors and windows are locked before you leave. Don't make it easy for someone to take from you!
- Don't post on social media sites like Facebook that you are leaving on vacation. This is just an announcement to the world that you will be away.
- For short trips away, keep your blinds closed. For longer vacations, you can have someone you trust open and close the blinds periodically to maintain the appearance that someone is home.

Last but not least, be sure to leave a way for your neighbors to reach you when you are away, just in case!