

# 40+ Ways to Keep Your Home Safe while on Vacation

## Checklist

### Securing Your Home's Perimeter



-  Install high-quality deadbolts on all exterior doors.
-  Use smart locks and/or video doorbells to remotely monitor door activity and receive alerts.
-  Lock all sliding glass doors.
-  Add a security bar to sliding glass doors.
-  Lock all windows, including upper-floor and basement windows.
-  Apply security film to ground-floor windows to make the glass harder to break.
-  Disconnect power to the automatic garage door opener.

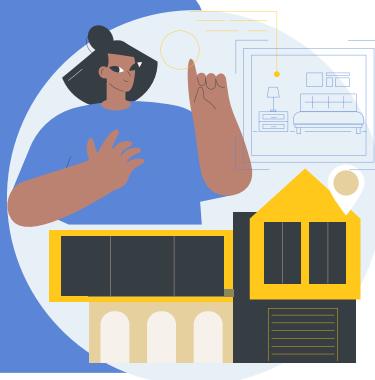
-  Lock the interior door between the garage and the house.
-  Use timers or smart/scheduled controls on **interior and exterior lights** to make the home look occupied.
-  Install motion-activated floodlights.
-  Arrange for lawn mowing while you're away.
-  Arrange for snow shoveling of driveways and walkways while you're away.
-  Trim trees and large shrubs that could provide cover to intruders.
-  Use a monitored home security system with motion, door, and window sensors.
-  Inform your alarm company of your travel dates.
-  Provide your alarm company with contact information for people authorized to visit your home.

## Managing Utilities, Water, and HVAC



- Inspect plumbing under sinks, behind toilets, and around the water heater for slow leaks before you leave.
- Inspect water supply lines to the washing machine, dishwasher, and refrigerator ice maker.
- Replace old plastic or rubber supply hoses with braided stainless-steel lines.
- Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris so water flows away from the foundation.
- Shut off the main water valve for extended trips (except where it would affect fire sprinklers).
- Keep the fire sprinkler system's water supply turned on.
- If the main water must stay on, shut off individual supply valves to appliances and toilets.

## Creating the Illusion of Occupancy & Enlisting Neighbors



- Use smart plugs or timers to turn a **radio or TV** on and off in the evening.
- Place a hold on your mail with the U.S. Postal Service.
- Pause newspaper subscriptions while you're gone.

- Ask a neighbor to collect any unexpected packages that arrive.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your home.
- Ask that neighbor to collect flyers or door hangers left on your door.
- Ask the neighbor to park a car in your driveway occasionally.
- Give a neighbor a spare key and your contact information for emergencies.

# Protecting Valuables and Important Documents



-  Store jewelry, cash, and other small valuables in a fireproof safe.
-  Place irreplaceable items in a bank safe deposit box.
-  Store passports, birth certificates, and other critical documents in your safe or take secure physical/digital copies with you.

-  Clean out the refrigerator and discard perishable food.
-  Run the garbage disposal before you leave.
-  Remove all trash and recycling and leave the home tidy to avoid pests and odors (and arrange for bins to be brought back promptly after collection).
-  Do a final walkthrough of the entire home to confirm windows are closed and locked, doors are secured, and appliances are turned off.

## Final Preparations Before You Leave



# Insurance and Digital Security



-  Review your homeowners insurance to ensure coverage is current and adequate for theft, fire, and water damage, including any rules about the home being unoccupied.
-  Avoid posting about your vacation on social media until after you return.
-  Secure your smart-home devices and Wi-Fi network with a strong password and appropriate security settings.