



PREPARING YOUR

HOME

WHEN GOING ON VACATION

Make your home look lived-in

- Mow your lawn and trim your bushes before you leave.
- Pick up any debris and any personal items in your front or backyard.
- Stop your mail and newspapers.
- Leave a car parked in your driveway.
- Invest in an inexpensive light timer to turn the lights on and off.



Secure your home and property

- A security system can help protect your property.
- Consider a motion-sensor floodlight.
- Make sure your important papers are in a fireproof container.
- Leave an emergency contact number and a spare key with a trusted neighbor.
- Don't advertise that you are going away on social media.



Clean thoroughly

- Give your house an overall cleaning.
- Empty the refrigerator of perishable items.
- Empty all of the trashcans.
- Run your garbage disposal with half a cup of vinegar and some water.
- Do the laundry and change the sheets.



Make plans for your pets and your plants

- Set up a pet sitter, boarding facility, or someone to check on your pets.
- Ask a neighbor to water your plants at your home or theirs.



Put your systems in vacation mode

- Put your water heater in vacation mode.
- Turn off the water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks.
- Set the thermostat appropriately.
- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors.



Do a final check the day you leave

- Unplug and shut off appliances not in use.
- Close all doors, windows, curtains and blinds.
- Leave on a light or two on or set a lamp timer.
- Check the washer for wet clothes.
- Make sure your oven is off.



Check-in while you're away

- Subscribe to a local app such as NextDoor.
- Look at online footage from your home's security camera.
- Text or call a neighbor to check in.



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AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE

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