



Tips For Keeping Your Home Safe While You Are On Vacation

1. Lock the Doors and Windows

This may seem obvious but surprisingly a large amount of burglaries occur because people forget to ensure the doors and windows of the residence are locked when going away. Use a security bar for sliding glass windows and deadbolts all exterior doors. Install heavy duty strike plates on doors.

2. Recruit a Trusted Neighbor

Ask the person to stop by the house once a day if you are going to be away for an extended period of time. This person can check the mail, take the garbage cans out and in, ensure the newspaper is brought in and maybe even park their car in driveway while you are away.

3. Stop your Mail

If you can't find someone to stop by your residence, place a stop on your mail. This can be done directly on the US Postal Service website. Also, consider placing a hold on newspaper delivery while you're away.

4. Do Not Broadcast on Social Media that you are on Vacation

Never post on Facebook, Twitter, or other accounts that you are leaving for vacation or currently on vacation. Wait until you return home to post pictures. Criminals will realize no one is home at your residence.

5. Contact the Police

If you are going to be away for an extended period of time, contact the police to do property checks. Also, if a neighborhood watch program is in effect, let them know so they can keep an eye on your residence.

6. Maintain the Appearance of your Residence

The more normal your home looks, the better. Use automatic timers to turn on lights in the evening to give the appearance someone is there. If you're away for an extended period of time in the spring or summer, have someone mow your lawn. Likewise, have someone shovel the snow if you're away in the winter. Park a car in the driveway and remove garage door openers from inside car. Better yet, unplug your garage door opener. Leave your curtains or blinds the way you normally keep them when you're home. If you have a spare key, make sure it's not left outside. Ensure trees and bushes are trimmed back from the windows. Install motion sensors for outside lights.

7. Consider an Alarm System

An alarm system can easily deter criminals and make them think twice about burglarizing a residence. Ensure alarm system signage is visible on property.

Final Notes

Take pictures of valuables and make a list of model numbers/serial numbers.

Consider placing valuables in a secure safe inside the residence while you are away or use a bank safety deposit box.