



Vacation Safety Tips

- Make sure all the locks on the doors and windows function properly and use them.
- Make sure your residence looks lived in and not empty.
- Leave the shades and blinds on doors and windows in a position that you would normally have them.
- Ask several trusted neighbors to keep an eye on your residence while you are away. Leave your vacation address and telephone number with the neighbors so you can be reached in an emergency.
- Make sure your smoke and burglar alarms are functioning properly and armed.
- Arrange for a trusted neighbor to pick up your deliveries: mail, newspaper, and any other packages.
- Arrange for someone to maintain your yard so your home appears occupied.
- Have someone place your garbage cans at the curb for normal pickup and put them away after the pickup has been made.
- Make sure you have timers for lights, television, or radios so they turn on and off at various and appropriate times.
- Turn the ringer on the telephone down low or off to help prevent a possible intruder from being alerted to your absence by a ringing telephone. If you can, forward your calls to your cellular phone or a trusted individual.
- Leave a normal message on both your cell phone and home answering machine; do not announce you're out of town.
- Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway while you are gone so it will appear that someone is home. If you leave your car at home, park as you normally would.
- Consider taking valuables that you cannot live without to a safety deposit box.
- Don't indicate on the out of office notice on your home/work email that you're going to be out of town.
- Consider NOT posting anything to social media DURING your trip. Wait until you get home to let folks know what a great time you had.