

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

20 Tips for leaving your home safe while you travel

- **Stop or forward mail** (United States Postal Service). Stop newspaper and other deliveries.
- **Do not change your voicemail** or indicate in social media you are leaving town for a number of days.
- **Maintain an emergency folder** for office or home. Include copies of your itinerary, what to do in an emergency and whom to alert, copies of passport, birth certificate, credit card numbers and cancellation phone numbers, computer passwords, emergency health care info (include blood types, drug allergies, doctors name and phone numbers for access to medical records). Update this file regularly!
- **Notify alarm company** of travel plans. Furnish them with names and phone numbers of house sitters or caretakers. Provide your itinerary and contact information. Contact local neighborhood watch patrols or police departments for further suggestions.
- **Provide friends and neighbors with itinerary** and relevant phone numbers and the names of those who have keys, etc. to enter your home.
- **Arrange for pet's care.**
- **Check current insurance policies for coverage** on rental cars especially if traveling in foreign destinations (if covered take a copy of policy).
- **Call health insurer to clarify coverage** when overseas and in transit. Make a copy of policy and card. Ask if coverage includes life-flight or emergency transportation home.
- **Bring prescription medicines for duration of trip.** For extended periods, get additional medication authorization from physician (some insurance programs limit monthly quantities). Keep prescriptions in original dosage containers.



- **Put itinerary and luggage tag information inside each bag** (including carry-on's). Luggage tags are often separated from the luggage making identity difficult. List only name and phone on outside luggage tags. Remove any old airline luggage routing tags.
- **Do not hide things** - house key under the mat, etc. Put jewelry and other valuables in safety deposit box.
- **Move plants** as required and arrange for their watering.
- **Stop garbage** or arrange for garbage to be set out and later, cans collected.
- **Check doors, windows and locks.** Don't overlook locking pet doors and the door between the garage and house.
- **Ask neighbors to walk by house periodically** to check doors, rear of house, and see if any unexpected packages or door hangtags were left.
- **Unplug expensive home electronics**, computers and other devices that might be damaged by a power surge. Disconnect Internet access to computers.
- **Remove perishables from refrigerator** and discard.
- **Empty coffee pot**, wash dishes.
- **Don't leave your lights on** at home throughout your entire vacation in an effort to make it look like someone is in the house. Purchase a light switch timer that can turn your lights on and off automatically according to a programmed schedule. And leave your curtains exactly as you usually keep them when you're home, since noticeable changes could hint that you're not around anymore
- **Make sure all appliances are turned off**, stove, oven, coffeemaker, etc.

Enjoy your vacation!

