

Securing your Home for Holiday Travel

The holiday season is a time for celebration, travel, and making memories with loved ones. But while you're away enjoying festive gatherings, your home can become more vulnerable to break-ins or other security risks. With a little planning and the right tools, you can ensure your home stays safe and secure while you're traveling. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

Install a Security System

A security system is one of the most effective ways to keep your property protected. Modern systems include features like motion detectors, video doorbells, indoor/outdoor cameras, and alarms, which can be monitored remotely via smartphone apps. Many also offer alerts that notify you immediately if unusual activity is detected, giving you peace of mind while you're away. Systems with professional monitoring will alert emergency responders if your alarm is triggered, ensuring that help is on the way even if you're far from home and unable to respond.

Use Timers for Lights

A home that looks lived-in is less likely to be targeted by burglars. Set timers for indoor and outdoor lights to mimic your usual activity. Consider staggering the timers to create a more natural look. Smart lighting systems can also be controlled remotely, allowing you to turn lights on and off from your phone.

Secure Doors and Windows

Before you leave, double-check all doors and windows to ensure they are locked. Pay special attention to ground-level windows and sliding doors, which are common entry points for intruders. Consider adding extra security measures, such as window locks or door reinforcement kits, for added protection.

Don't Announce Your Absence

It can be tempting to share your holiday plans or vacation photos on social media, but doing so can signal to potential burglars that your home is unoccupied. Save your posts for when you return home, and adjust your privacy settings to ensure only trusted friends can see your updates.

Hold Your Mail and Deliveries

A pile of mail or packages left at the front door is a clear



indicator that no one is home. Before you leave, put your mail on hold through your local post office and consider scheduling package deliveries for when you return.

Enlist Help from a Neighbor

Having someone you trust keep an eye on your home can be an excellent layer of security. Ask them to pick up any flyers or packages, park their car in your driveway,

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or even check on your home periodically. If you have a security system, consider adding them as an emergency contact to receive alerts.

Fire Safety is Important

While security is essential, it's also important to consider fire safety. Before leaving, check that all smoke detectors are working properly. Unplug unnecessary appliances, turn off the stove, and ensure any holiday decorations, like lights and candles, are safely stored away to reduce the risk of fire.

Secure Outdoor Valuables

Don't forget about securing your outdoor space. Lock up garden tools, bicycles, and any outdoor furniture that could be an easy target for thieves. Consider installing motion-sensor lights around your home's exterior to deter potential burglars from approaching at night.

The holidays should be a time of joy and relaxation, not stress. By taking these precautions, you can help ensure your home stays safe and secure while you're away. With the right security measures in place, you'll have one less thing to worry about as you enjoy your holiday travels.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

And

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Our offices will be closed on December 24th, 25th, and January 1st.
We appreciate the continued opportunity to serve you.