

Vacation Checklist

- Notify responsible neighbors or relatives of your itinerary and contact numbers. Ask your Block Watch Captain to coordinate house checks. Choose a trusted friend or neighbor to be your representative while you are gone.
- Notify your local police department and alarm company about your schedule and leave your local representative's numbers as well as your away contact numbers.
- Arrange to have the Post Office stop delivering your mail until you return, or arrange for it to be picked up regularly by your representative.
- Cancel all normal deliveries such as milk and newspapers, or arrange for your representative pick them up.
- Ask a friend or relative to help you make your home look occupied. He or she should mow your lawn or shovel your walk, collect any brochures or information left on your door or in the yard, and open and close your drapes.
- Do not leave any easily stolen objects such as power mowers, garden hoses, lawn chairs, and bicycles in your yard.
- Hide all valuable or irreplaceable items (e.g., jewelry, computers, firearms, important papers, or checkbooks) in a safe place such as a safety deposit box or home safe. You could also leave them with a trusted friend or relative (check your insurance coverage). Make sure your home inventory is up to date and keep copies in separate safe locations.
- Unplug your garage door opener so that your garage doors are secure. Consider placing a padlock through the track for extra security.
- Consider moving your motor vehicle(s) to a different location until you return, or have your representative move them regularly to make it appear as if you are home.
- Avoid publicity about your trip until you return.