Pre-Travel Home Safety Checklist

Run through this before you head out the door. A safe home is a relaxed trip.

Want to edit or customize this checklist? Go to File → Make a copy to save your own version that you can edit.

Doors, Windows, and Entry Points

- ☐ Lock all exterior doors, including garage and side entries
- ☐ Lock and latch all windows, including basement and second-floor
- ☐ Close and lock sliding doors; place a dowel or bar in the track
- ☐ Lock the garage door manually if you'll be gone more than a few days
- ☐ Hide spare keys (or take them with you)

Lights and Electronics

- ☐ Set indoor lights on timers or smart plugs to mimic occupancy
- ☐ Turn off and unplug non-essential electronics (TVs, computers, chargers)
- ☐ Leave a porch or exterior light on, or set it to dusk-to-dawn
- ☐ Unplug small kitchen appliances (toaster, coffee maker, air fryer)
- ☐ Confirm security system is armed and notifications are working

Water and Plumbing

- ☐ Turn off the main water supply if leaving for more than a week
- ☐ Shut off washing machine water valves
- ☐ Check under sinks, around the dishwasher, and near the water heater for leaks
- ☐ Run the garbage disposal and let water drain fully
- ☐ In cold weather: leave heat on (minimum 55°F) and open cabinet doors under sinks to prevent frozen pipes

Kitchen and Appliances

- ☐ Empty and clean out the refrigerator of anything that will spoil
- ☐ Take out all trash and recycling
- ☐ Run the dishwasher one last time and leave it empty
- ☐ Confirm the oven, stovetop, and any countertop appliances are off
- ☐ Adjust the refrigerator to a slightly warmer setting if it'll be unopened for weeks

Heating, Cooling, and Air

- ☐ Set the thermostat to an away/eco setting appropriate to the season
- ☐ Replace the HVAC filter if it's due
- ☐ Close fireplace dampers
- ☐ Confirm smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working

Mail, Deliveries, and Curb Appeal

- ☐ Pause mail and newspaper delivery, or ask a neighbor to collect
- ☐ Pause or reroute recurring package deliveries
- ☐ Arrange for lawn care, snow removal, or landscaping as needed
- ☐ Move trash and recycling bins out of view
- ☐ Remove any visible packages or signs the home is empty

People and Pets

- ☐ Share your travel dates and emergency contact with a trusted neighbor
- ☐ Confirm pet sitter or boarding arrangements
- ☐ Leave a key with a trusted neighbor or family member
- ☐ Provide emergency contacts and any home access codes to your sitter
- ☐ Water plants or arrange for someone to do so

Documents and Valuables

- ☐ Store valuables, jewelry, and important documents in a safe
- ☐ Take photos of valuable items for insurance records
- ☐ Confirm home insurance is active and policy details are accessible
- ☐ Bring copies of essential documents (ID, insurance cards) with you

Final Walk-Through

- ☐ Check every room one last time before locking up
- ☐ Confirm all exterior doors are locked from the outside
- ☐ Take a photo of the thermostat, locked doors, and stove to ease your mind on the road
- ☐ Set the alarm

Safe travels.