

10 Tips For Securing Your Home While Away

10 security tips when you are on holidays

1. Have lawns mowed and yard work kept up. Don't give the impression nobody is around.
2. Put things away: outdoor furniture, bicycles etc. should be put away. Items left out are an easy target for "spur of the moment" thieves.
3. Stop all deliveries (or have someone pick up deliveries daily). Notify police and a trusted neighbour of your planned absence and the length of time you will be gone.
4. Don't discuss your absence in public, and don't give information about your vacation to the newspapers - you can give details when you return.
5. Move valuables so that they can't be seen from any windows. Be sure you have a list of small appliances and valuables.
6. Arrange routine inspection by a trusted neighbour if you will be gone more than a few days - to be sure nothing has been disturbed.
7. Don't close the blinds, pull shades down or do other things that may advertise that the house is empty.
8. Use a clock-timer to turn lights on and off at certain times: giving the house an occupied look. Some people even have radios playing at certain times.
9. Alter lighting pattern. Added protection can be achieved if you have your neighbour rearrange the time-controlled lights every few days.
10. In case of a break-in, your neighbour should know how to reach you and your insurance agent – and you should have this information for the police when reporting a suspected burglary.