**Vacation Checklist for Home Security**

Use this list to minimize your home being a target for a burglar while you are on vacation.

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| 1 | Lock all doors, including the garage door and pet doors. |  |
| 2 | Lock all windows, including basement and garage windows. |  |
| 3 | Cancel all deliveries such as newspaper, food services, etc.  |  |
| 4 | Have mail and newspapers picked up by a neighbor, if possible. |  |
| 5 | Have someone pick up handbills and throwaways. |  |
| 6 | Never leave a note on the door that may indicate your absence. |  |
| 7 | Arrange to have the lawn and landscaping cared for, appropriate to the season. |  |
| 8 | Adjust blinds to make the home appear to be occupied. Do not close all drapes and blinds. |  |
| 9 | Place a light or two inside on automatic timers. Have outdoor lights go on at dusk and off at dawn. |  |
| 10 | Remove ladders from sight and secure them in locked places. |  |
| 11 | Don't hide keys under doormats or flowerpots or in similar places. |  |
| 12 | Be sure nothing valuable is visible from windows. Consider putting key valuables (heirlooms, expensive jewelry, etc.) in a safe deposit box off-site. |  |
| 13 | Arrange for a house-sitter, someone to live in your house while you are away, if possible. |  |
| 14 | Arrange for a neighbor to keep an eye on your property and to report anything suspicious to police. |  |
| 15 | Let a neighbor know where you can be reached in case of an emergency. |  |
| 16 | Leave your car in the driveway, or have a neighbor leave their car parked in your driveway or in front of your home, if you are traveling with your car. |  |
| 17 | Leave a radio on just inside your doorway. |  |
| 18 | Lower the tone on any land-line phone. If you have an answering machine, check and remove messages regularly while you are gone, so that it doesn’t fill, signaling to callers that you’re away. |  |
| 19 | Ask neighbors not to tell strangers such as salespersons and repair persons of your absence. |  |
| 20 | Do not advertise your absence in social media before or during your vacation. |  |
| 21 | Notify your local law-enforcement agency of your absence. |  |