

Safety Tips For When Your Away

Statistics show that the number of home invasions increase during the summer months when many people are away. Here are some tips you can follow to protect your home and to give the impression that you have never left.

- * Make sure that all doors and windows are closed and locked.
- * Leave shades and blinds in the same position as when you are home.
- * Cancel all deliveries and notify your local post office to put your mail on a "vacation hold". Have a trusted neighbor or friend remove any deliveries, newspapers, and circulars. Leave a telephone number or address where you can be reached with a neighbor, friend or family member.
- * Notify your local Sheriff's Office about your plans and provide dates of departure and return. The Deputies can place your home on their Vacation Check list and check periodically.
- * Use timers to turn on and off lights at strategic locations inside the home and at appropriate times. A motion sensor light should be installed at the rear and front of the residence. Place a radio or television on a timer for added precaution.
- * Make arrangements to have your grass cut and yard maintained or your walk and driveway shoveled in winter.
- * Move all ladders, tools or any other devices (that could be used to break in) to a locked garage or shed.
- * Do not leave valuables or electronics within view from a window. Use a home safe or safety deposit box if you can.
- * Keep an inventory of all valuables in the home including furniture, jewelry and electronic products.
- * Test your smoke and burglar alarms.
- * Park your car in the driveway or have a neighbor or friend park their vehicle at your home while you are away.
- * Don't leave an outgoing message on your home email account or phone voicemail that you will be away.