

Preparing Your Home CHECKLIST



No	ACTIVITIES	☒
1	Unplug all appliances, printers, computers, televisions, etc. in case of power surges or lightning.	
2	If you don't have security, you may want to purchase a security camera and have it focused on your main level. Ring cameras are only around \$40 to \$70 and your phone will alert you if something sets them off. Install cameras not only for security purposes but also to monitor your utilities (frozen pipes, water heater, etc.) while you're away.	
3	Verify that all doors and windows are closed and locked.	
4	For added security, place a 2" x 2" x 36" (width of door) piece of wood inside the tracks of your sliding doors. A broom handle works also.	
5	Ask a neighbor to check on your house on a regular basis if you don't have a smart home that can notify you when something goes wrong. Make sure to leave your insurance agent's and your contact information with your neighbor so they can call you and your agent in case of an emergency.	
6	Put a vacation hold on your mail and incoming packages, or ask a neighbor to collect them daily. There is nothing that advertises your being away from home more than an overstuffed mailbox or packages building up by your door.	
7	Stop deliveries (UPS, FedEx). If you don't, chances are, by the time you make it home, your packages will be in the possession of a porch pirate.	
8	Hide all valuables.	
9	Hire a snow removal service. No car tracks or footprints in the snow signal easy prey for thief	
10	Hire a service to mow your lawn.	
11	If you don't use your showers or sinks for a couple weeks, you may come home to a rotten sewage smell. Drains that dry out have a fowl smell (like rotten eggs). Just running water in the p-trap will eliminate the smell. Before you leave, cover your drains with Saran Wrap or purchase silicone drain covers; this will keep the smells contained when the pipes dry out.	
12	Turn off your stove and burners.	
13	Turn up or down the heat or air conditioning if you want to save energy.	
14	Wash your dishes or run your dishwasher; no one wants to come home to mold and stench.	
15	If you want to save energy, turn up the temperature on the air conditioner.	
16	Discard food items that cannot be frozen or will not last.	

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17	Turn your heat to 62 degrees so the water pipes won't freeze but you won't have to pay extra for heat not being used. During the summer months, turn your air conditioner to 80 degrees so it doesn't kick on to cool a house unnecessarily, yet won't melt the candles.	
18	Leaving your radio tuned to a local station can also be a theft deterrent. As thieves will think someone is in the house.	
19	Take out your trash so you don't get unwanted bugs moving in while you're away. No one wants to return home to critters running wild.	
20	Turn off your water valves at the back of the toilets in case they spring a leak. After a month away, I returned home to find that the toilet had developed a leak. The black mold that had developed required me to replace more than four feet of sheetrock. Luckily, I had insurance. A month later, one of my friends experienced the same thing, so it must occur more frequently than people think.	
21	Make sure your home owner's insurance is paid and up-to-date.	
18	Arrange for pet and child care.	
19	If you're leaving food items in your freezer, place a cup of water in the freezer. Once it is frozen, place a coin on top of the ice. If you come home and the coin is halfway down inside the ice, you know that the freezer has been out for a few hours. If the quarter is all the way to the bottom of the cup, you may want to toss everything inside your freezer in the garbage because you won't know how long the electricity was out.	
20	Turn off your ice maker and pour out the ice in the freezer before leaving. You don't want to come home to melted ice that turned to water after it ran down the walls of your freezer when the electricity went out, only to freeze again in unwanted places when the electricity came back on. Defrosting a freezer is not fun. Use the ice to water the plants.	
21	Water your plants and if you will be gone for more than a week, ask a neighbor to water them or use an automatic watering system or a drip system.	
22	If you want to save some money, consider suspending your Internet service.	
23	Suspend or place on vacation your streaming service accounts (such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, DIRECTV, etc.).	
24	Before you leave your house, place a few lights on timers so they go on and off at certain times. This will discourage thieves. Using an inexpensive vacation light that flashes a variety of colors, portraying a television, is another idea.	