

Pre-Trip Security Checklist

Use this checklist to secure your home and enjoy peace of mind while you're away.

Doors & Entry Points

- ☐ Lock all exterior doors including side and basement entrances
- ☐ Engage deadbolts on every exterior door
- ☐ Test each lock to confirm it's secure
- ☐ If using smart locks, verify all doors show locked in the app
- ☐ Remove spare keys from outdoor hiding spots
- ☐ Leave a spare key with a trusted neighbor or friend

Windows & Garage

- ☐ Close and lock all ground-level windows
- ☐ Lock all sliding glass doors
- ☐ Place dowels or rods in sliding door tracks for extra security
- ☐ Close and lock the garage door
- ☐ Disable or unplug garage door remotes not in use
- ☐ If using a smart garage controller, verify status remotely

Lighting & Occupancy

- ☐ Set up timers or smart plugs for interior lights
- ☐ Schedule lights in different rooms at varied times
- ☐ Avoid turning all lights on/off at the same time
- ☐ Set porch or exterior light on timer or motion sensor
- ☐ If using smart home routines, activate vacation mode
- ☐ Test all scheduled lights before leaving

Mail, Deliveries & Curb Appeal

- ☐ Pause mail delivery online or arrange pickup by neighbor
- ☐ Reschedule or redirect package deliveries
- ☐ Move garbage cans into garage or arrange for neighbor to handle them
- ☐ Mow lawn or arrange for yard maintenance if gone more than a week
- ☐ Clear counters and take out all trash before leaving

Security Systems & Cameras

- ☐ Verify all cameras are online and recording
- ☐ Clean camera lenses and test night vision
- ☐ Check positioning of all cameras
- ☐ Test alarm system and confirm all sensors are working
- ☐ Turn on push notifications for door and window alerts
- ☐ If professionally monitored, notify company of travel dates
- ☐ Arm alarm system before departure

Outdoor Security

- ☐ Trim bushes and trees near windows and doors
- ☐ Remove or lock up ladders, tools, and outdoor equipment
- ☐ Test motion-sensor lights near entrances and dark areas
- ☐ Secure shed and outdoor storage areas
- ☐ Store grills, patio furniture, or valuables that could be stolen

Neighbor & Emergency Contacts

- ☐ Provide trusted neighbor with travel dates
- ☐ Leave emergency contact information
- ☐ Ask neighbor to check on property periodically
- ☐ If using a house sitter, provide access and instructions
- ☐ Share alarm code or smart lock access if needed

Digital Security & Smart Home

- ☐ Avoid posting travel plans on social media before or during trip
- ☐ Set social media posts to friends-only or delay posting until after return
- ☐ Verify smart home routines and schedules are active
- ☐ Check Wi-Fi router is functioning properly
- ☐ Unplug non-essential electronics to save energy and reduce fire risk

Final Walkthrough (Day of Departure)

- ☐ Walk through each room and verify all locks
- ☐ Confirm lighting schedules are running
- ☐ Double-check cameras and alarms are armed
- ☐ Turn off faucets and check for leaks
- ☐ Adjust thermostat to energy-saving setting
- ☐ Unplug unnecessary appliances
- ☐ Do one final check of all exterior doors
- ☐ Lock up, arm system, and go enjoy your trip

