

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



Locks to Logins
Security advice for home and online