

Before You Leave On Vacation

Checklist

by Abundance Organizing

SAFETY

- Stop the newspaper and mail or schedule someone to get the mail, check on the house, water the plants, set trash on the curb, etc.
- If you have a garage, park your car inside the garage. If you do not, take all precautions in leaving it outside for an extended period of time.
- Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally so there's activity at your house.
- Put one or two lights in your house on a timer.
- Make sure your smoke detectors are working properly.
- Install a motion activated sensor on an outdoor floodlight.
- Notify your credit card company and home security company that you'll be out of town.
- Leave your emergency contact information with a neighbor, friend or family member.
- Make sure your RING door bell is working properly and/or charged.

PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL

- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices throughout the house.
- Put the water heater on "vacation" mode.
- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine, and all sinks.
- Flush all the toilets before you leave.
- Set your thermostat to a temperature closer to outside temps (warmer in the summer, cooler in the winter) but which still protects your plants, pets, and furniture.
- Check your storm drains to make sure they are clean.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

- Set up your irrigation system as needed.
- Schedule lawn maintenance/lawn mowing service.
- Empty the dishwasher and leave it a little bit cracked open to let any leftover water evaporate.
- Check your refrigerator and make sure there is no food left in there that will spoil before you get back from vacation.
- Pour vinegar and water down the garbage disposal to help with odor buildup.
- Take all trash out of the trash cans throughout the house.