

Is Anybody Home?

According to the FBI, burglaries are more common during the Summer months.

Always secure your home when away. An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar. Keep your house looking the same whether you are home or away.

20 Tips for When You're Away or On Vacation

1. Ask a neighbor to watch the house. Have them report any suspicious activity.
2. **Have good locks on all doors and windows, and USE THEM! Don't forget to close and lock garage doors and windows. Secure storage sheds, attic entrances, and gates.**
3. Leave a vacation address, telephone number, and itinerary with a neighbor in case of an emergency.
4. **Have someone you trust stay at your home while you are away, if possible.**
5. Ask a trusted friend or relative to care for pets in your home instead of boarding them.
6. Never leave house keys hidden outside.
7. **Arrange for a neighbor to pick up mail, newspapers, and packages if possible instead of stopping deliveries.**
8. Turn the bell or ringer on telephones down low. A ringing phone can give away your absence.
9. **Have phone calls forwarded. (Some burglars call ahead to see if someone is home.)**
10. Never announce absences on answering machine messages or on a note at the door.
11. **Arrange for someone to mow the lawn, rake leaves, shovel snow, and maintain the yard.**
12. Ask a neighbor to put your garbage can out on normal delivery days and put it back after pick up.
13. **Plug in timers to turn lights and a radio or television on. Play it loud enough to be heard outside.**
14. Install motion sensor lights near entrances instead of leaving lights on. Make sure they are high enough to not be disconnected or broken.
15. **Leave blinds, shades, and curtains in a normal position. Never close them unless that is what you do when you are home. Consider installing a device that will automatically open and shut draperies.**
16. Keep valuables such as electronics and artwork out of sight from windows.
17. **Ask a neighbor to occasionally park a car at your home as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.**
18. Tell your local law enforcement your plans.
19. **Check your insurance policy to make sure you are covered if you will be away for more than 30 days.**
20. Set the alarm system.

