

THE ULTIMATE VACATION HOME MAINTENANCE

CHECKLIST

Kitchen

- Clean out the disposal.
- Turn off and unplug appliances.
- Toss perishable foods from the pantry.
- Empty and clean the refrigerator, and prop the door open.

Living Room

- Pull furniture away from the walls.
- Pull out loose cushions on couches and chairs.
- Clean ashes out of the fireplace and close the chimney flue.

Bedroom

- Strip and clean the bedsheets.
- Leave closet doors and dresser drawers open.

Laundry Room

- Make sure there's no water left in your washing machine.
- Disconnect the hoses to your washer and dryer, and unplug them.

Bathroom

- Clean shower drains.
- Shut off the water supply under each toilet tank and flush to drain the water, or add non-toxic antifreeze rated for plumbing systems to the tank and toilet bowl.
- Pour half a cup of chlorine bleach into the toilet bowl to prevent stain-causing bacteria.

Throughout the House

- Empty trashcans.
- Cover furniture with dust covers.
- Clean the whole house thoroughly.
- Leave containers of baking soda, charcoal or cat litter around the house to absorb odors and moisture in the air.

Energy Efficient Tips

- Unplug appliances, electronics and anything non-essential.
- Set the thermostat to 50 degrees for heat and 80 degrees for air conditioning.
- Change air and furnace filters.

Safety Tips

- Check the sump pump.
- Close shades and curtains.
- Set alarms, light timers, cameras or home-away devices.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Lock doors and windows, and put wooden dowels in sliding door tracks.

Things to Turn Off

- Gas.
- Lights.
- Water.
- Water heater.
- Non-essential electrical circuit breakers.

Landscaping

- Fertilize.
- Trim trees and bushes.
- Weed and clean up the yard.

General Exterior Maintenance

- Drain the pool.
- Empty and store garden hoses.
- Cover the grill and disconnect the propane tank.
- Secure the shed and any other outdoor dwellings.
- Check to make sure the caulking around the windows is intact.
- Make sure the paint around the outside of your house isn't cracked.
- Bring everything inside: patio furniture, hammocks, flags, lawn decorations, etc.
- Throughout your vacation, check the roof, foundation, driveway, etc. to make sure they're not damaged, cracked or leaking.

Weather Precautions

- Clean storm drains and gutters
- Seal your deck to protect it against wind, rain and snow.
- If heavy snow and wind is common in your area, wrap trees or bushes with burlap or twine.
- Install storm window or hurricane shutters, or board up windows if your area gets a lot of wind or snow.

Services

- Have the local post office forward your mail to your home address.
- Ask your waste management company to hold trash pickup until next season.