



### Protect Your Home While You're Away

Many families plan their vacations around the summer school break. If your vacation will take you away from your home for more than a long weekend, please consider these tips.

- The key to protecting your home from burglars is to make it appear as if you've never left.
    - Either stop your mail and newspaper or make arrangements for someone to take them in
    - Postpone any parcel deliveries until after your return
    - Have someone mow the lawn
  - Enlist the neighbors! Encourage them to park in your driveway. And don't forget to provide them with:
    - House keys
    - Alarm codes
    - Keys to any cars left at home
    - Emergency contact information
- Ask them to watch your home and take care of small tasks such as:
- Taking in flyers or door hangers left on the front porch
  - Opening and/or closing drapes and curtains
  - Checking for phone messages
  - Placing your garbage can at the curb on garbage pickup day
- Alert the police department and, if you have a security system, your alarm company, that your home will be unoccupied
  - Set up timers to lamps and a radio, and schedule them so that they lights and sounds mimic your normal routine
  - Disconnect small appliances, computers, televisions and media centers to protect them from power surges
  - Turn off the water to the washing machine and any other appliances as appropriate
  - Check that the toilets are not running water
  - Adjust the furnace and water heater
  - Turn down the ringers on the phones
  - Do not change the greeting on your answering machine to reflect that you're away
  - Lock up valuables, important papers and firearms
  - Move expensive items out of sight of the windows
  - Double check locks on all doors and windows, including the door to the attached garage
  - Don't forget the social media!
    - Don't use social media to announce to the world that you're on vacation – caution your family that they should not include any discussion of their pending vacation in their online chatter
    - Don't change your status to reflect that you are away and don't upload vacation pictures until your return

Visit [Allstate Be Aware and Prepare](#) and the [Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety](#) for more, helpful information.