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.

June 2013