

Vacation Tips for Your Home

Summer Vacations

Before you leave, it's always a great idea to:

- Have newspaper and mail stopped or regularly picked up by a trusted neighbor
- Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your home
- Make sure a neighbor knows where the water main shut-off is located in the event of a broken pipe
- Set timers on interior lights to deter burglars
- Unplug TV, computer and appliances susceptible to lightning and power surges
- Advise your alarm company and local police if you will be gone for an extended vacation
- Take jewelry and valuable papers to a safe deposit box
- Turn off water valves to your washing machine, icemaker and dishwasher

Winter Vacations

- Set the heat in your home to no lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit
- Allow water to drip from a faucet near an outside wall
- Keep downspouts and gutters clean to prevent ice dams on your roof
- Disconnect all garden hoses
- Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing. Typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces and in the attic are the most vulnerable.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach uninsulated pipes under sinks and where appliances are near exterior walls
- Shut off and drain the water system in your home (except indoor sprinkler systems) before an extended vacation