



It is essential to ensure that your home and belongings are safe while you're away on holiday. Here is a checklist to help you secure your home during your holiday:

1. Secure Doors and Windows

Are all doors locked?	Y	N	Use deadbolts or dowels.
Are all windows locked?	Y	N	Use a dowel for extra security.
Are all sliding doors locked?	Y	N	Use dowel for extra security.
Is the garage door locked?	Y	N	Add extra lock on the inside.
Side gate locked?	Y	N	Lock all side gates.
Shed locked?	Y	N	Lock your shed.
Doorbell camera?	Y	N	Charge or install video doorbell.
Curtains/blinds closed?	Y	N	Keep curtains and blinds closed to prevent others from viewing your valuables.

2. Lighting

Timers set for lights?	Y	N	Set indoor and outdoor lights on timers to make it look like someone is home. You can use smart lights to control them.
Set timers for TV or radio:	Y	N	Leave a program on, also on a timer so it sounds like someone is home.
Outdoor lighting:	Y	N	Ensure the exterior of your home is well-lit especially entry points: front door, driveway and side gates.
Security sensor lights:	Y	N	Install motion-sensor lights to deter intruders.

3. Keys

Spare keys locked away?	Y	N	Make sure all keys are locked away.
Keyholder?	Y	N	Leave a key with a trusted person who can check your house or access your house in an emergency.

4. Mail and Packages

Stop mail delivery?	Y	N	If you'll be away for an extended period, arrange for your mail to be held or have a trusted neighbour collect it.
Tracking deliveries?	Y	N	Use delivery tracking services to monitor the arrival of packages and arrange for someone to pick them up immediately.
Package delivered?	Y	N	Have packages delivered to a secure location (e.g., work address) or use a locker service.

5. Home Security System

Alarm systems activated?	Y	N	If you have a home security system, ensure it's fully activated and test it before leaving.
Remote monitoring set up?	Y	N	If available, set up remote access to view security cameras or check the system's status from your smartphone.
Check batteries?	Y	N	Make sure any battery-operated devices (such as alarms or motion detectors) are functioning properly and have fresh batteries.

6. Valuables and Gifts

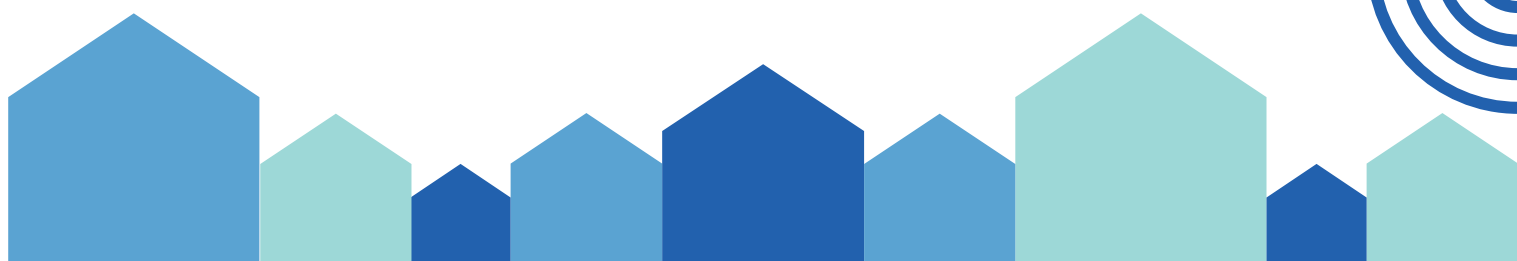
Are valuables hidden?	Y	N	Keep gifts, cash, and valuables out of sight, especially in areas visible from windows.
Safe secure?	Y	N	Store important documents, jewellery, and valuables in a secure safe that's bolted to the floor if possible.
Boxes outside?	Y	N	Avoid leaving empty boxes for high-ticket items (like electronics) on your curb. These signal what you just purchased.

7. Neighbours and Community

Inform neighbours?	Y	N	Let your trusted neighbours know if you'll be away and ask them to keep an eye on your property. Offer to return the favour.
Social media	Y	N	Avoid posting travel plans on social media before your trip. Wait until after you're back home to share photos.

8. Secure Your Garage

Garage door locked?	Y	N	Secure the garage door with extra padlock on the inside.
Garage openers safe?	Y	N	Never leave garage openers in your car or near the garage door.



9. Smart Home Devices

Passwords updated?	Y	N	Change passwords for your smart home devices (e.g., smart cameras, smart locks, etc.) before the holiday season.
Added security layer?	Y	N	Add two-factor authentication for extra security.

10. Emergency Preparedness

Emergency contacts	Y	N	Make sure everyone in your household knows important emergency contacts, including local authorities, fire, and medical numbers.
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11. Informing Your Alarm Company

Alarm company informed?	Y	N	So they know to expect fewer activity alerts.
Emergency contacts updated?	Y	N	Make sure security company has the right emergency contacts.

This checklist should help provide peace of mind, knowing that your home is secure when you are away on holiday.

Designing Out Crime is about planning and designing spaces in a way that makes crime less likely to happen. The idea is that the way we build and organise places can either encourage or prevent criminal behaviour.

