



# Before leaving on vacation checklist

- Stop/hold your newspaper and mail delivery or have a neighbor collect it every day.
- Water your houseplants.
- Hire someone to mow your lawn.
- Ask a friend or neighbor to water outdoor pots if needed. If water won't be needed, shut off the water main valve.
- Unplug electronics and small appliances.
- Order and pickup Rx refills.
- Notify your bank about your travel dates.
- Pay bills, including the ones that are due a few days after you return.
- Toss food from the fridge that will spoil while you are away (milk, vegetables, leftovers, deli meat, etc.) or offer the food to a neighbor or friend.
- Take out the trash after tossing food.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to put your trash bins at the curb on collection day and return them to your garage after collection, if needed, as well as keep an eye on your property.
- Clean out the non-essential cards and other items from your wallet.
- Lock windows and doors including the side door leading into your garage.
- Adjust the air conditioning or turn it off.
- Set timers for lights, or your smartphone app, so it isn't obvious you are gone.
- Close some of your blinds or drapes to keep the temperature from rising to sweltering inside your home.
- Arrange for pet sitters or boarding well ahead of time, especially if it's a time highly requested time period.
- Freeze a meal or have a frozen pizza on hand. You won't need to immediately run to the store when you return.
- Clean your bathroom and do a quick tidy. I love returning to a clean home. It makes re-entry a bit less stressful.