

Home Preparation for Travel

This playbook outlines the necessary steps to secure and maintain your home while your family is away on extended travel. It ensures that the property is safe, appliances are managed, and services are set up for the duration of the trip.

Step 1: **Security Check**

Ensure all doors and windows are locked and secure any pet doors. Consider installing timer lights or a security system to deter potential intruders.

Step 2: **Appliance Management**

Unplug unnecessary appliances to prevent energy waste and reduce the risk of electrical fires. Set your thermostat to an energy-saving mode appropriate for the season.

Step 3: **Mail & Deliveries**

Place a hold on your mail or arrange for a neighbor to collect it to avoid an overfilled mailbox. Suspend any regular deliveries or arrange for them to be received by a neighbor.

Step 4: **Utilities Adjustment**

Adjust your utilities as needed; you may want to turn off water valves to prevent leaks or set your water heater to vacation mode to save energy.

Step 5: **Lawn Care**

Set up lawn care services to maintain your yard or ask a friend or neighbor to handle it. This will keep your home looking lived-in and cared for while you're away.

Step 6: **Trash Management**

Arrange for trash to be taken out if you will be away during collection day, and ensure all waste is disposed of before departure to prevent odors or pests.

Step 7: **Emergency Contact**

Provide a trusted friend or neighbor with contact information and any necessary spare keys so they can monitor your home and react to any potential issues.

General Notes

Insurance Info

Ensure that your homeowners' insurance information is readily available and that your policy is up-to-date in case of any incidents while you are away.

House Instructions

Leave detailed instructions for anyone taking care of your home, including how to manage any house plants, pet care instructions, and troubleshooting tips for alarms or appliances.