

Smart Home Vacation Prep

This playbook outlines the steps to configure smart home devices and security systems into 'Vacation Mode'. These steps help save energy and enhance the security of your home while you are away.

Step 1: **Thermostat Setting**

Adjust your smart thermostat to an energy-saving setting that keeps the home at a safe temperature but does not waste energy on unnecessary heating or cooling. This could be around 55°F in the winter or 85°F in the summer.

Step 2: **Light Schedules**

Program your smart lighting systems to turn on and off at certain times of the day to mimic occupancy. Use randomization features if available to avoid a predictable pattern.

Step 3: **Security System**

Ensure your security system is armed in the appropriate mode that monitors for break-ins, fires, and other emergencies. Verify that all cameras and sensors are operational.

Step 4: **Smart Plugs**

Disconnect or turn off any non-essential devices connected to smart plugs to save energy. Consider leaving some devices like a radio or TV to turn on at random times to simulate presence.

Step 5: **Notify Services**

If your smart home system allows for it, set up notifications for unusual activity or system disruptions that can alert you or a trusted neighbor while you're away.

Step 6: **Final Check**

Conduct a final walkthrough of your home to make sure all windows and doors are locked, and that no appliances are left on that shouldn't be. Double-check that all smart home settings are correctly applied.

General Notes

Emergency Contacts

Ensure that your security system has updated emergency contact numbers and that neighbors or nearby friends are informed and have a way to reach you if necessary.

System Updates

Check for and install any available updates for your smart devices before you leave to ensure all security patches and improvements are in place.

Manual Overrides

Familiarize yourself with how to manually override and control your smart home systems remotely in case you need to make adjustments while away.