

Home Security Checklist for the Summer

For many people, summer is the time to go on vacation. Whether you are leaving the house for a short or long period of time, preparing your home for vacation is a must-do to protect your home and valuables. When you go on vacation, the last thing you want to hear is someone telling you your house was broken into or discovering your home was broken into when you return. Ask yourself these questions to secure your home for summer vacation.



Are your points of entry secured?

- Before you leave, check **ALL** doors and windows to make sure everything is closed and locked, including the ones on the second floor.
- Make sure all keys are accounted for. Do not leave out any spare or hidden keys, put them in a secure location inside your home.

Is someone watching over your home?

- Ask a trusted friend, neighbour, or family member to look after your home. Have them pick up the newspaper and mail. They can also move the car once in awhile to make it look like someone is home.
- Look to join or create a Block Watch group in your neighbourhood! You can find a trusted neighbour to help with house sitting. They are also the closest people to your home so they may see or hear things, alert you, and the police.

Did you set up your home security system?

- Double check your cameras, alarms, and home security systems to see that they are working and you are able to access them.
- Install security cameras around your home. Security cameras alert you when someone is in the frame. If something were to happen, the camera gathers evidence and provides details to the police to use in their investigations.
- Set timers for your lights and have them turn on at times when you are usually home.

Did you take inventory of your household items and valuables?

- Vacation time is a perfect time to remind yourself to do an updated inventory on household items, valuables, bikes, appliances, jewellery, or valued items. Look for serial numbers and identifying features on items.
- Put away any tools or items that are left outside. Thieves can use these tools or items to break into your home. Put away any objects they may use as a surface to climb onto your home.

Are you ready for vacation?

Checking off all these different things will give you the peace of mind that your house is secured. Enjoy your summer knowing you have made adjustments to your home to make it harder for thieves to break in.

