



Protecting Your Home While Away on Vacation

Whether you are planning a summer escape or a short vacation, there are certain steps you can take to safeguard your home while you are away to avoid maintenance disasters. Here are some ways to help keep your home secure and in working order during your absence.

- Set the thermostat to 85 degrees to prevent damage during extreme heat.
- Use timers to turn lights on and off at night.
- Ensure all exterior lights and landscape lights are in working order.
- Turn off the hot water heater or set it to “vacation mode” or “pilot”.
- Unplug electrical appliances (washer, dryer, coffee pot, toaster oven).
- Place a hold on newspaper and mail delivery.
- Replace air conditioning filters.
- Close the fireplace flue.
- Close sink and tub drains.
- Arrange for yard and pool maintenance.
- Make sure all windows and doors are locked and place protective slats in windows so they may not be forced open.
- Lock all doors, including your garage door and the door into the house from the garage.
- Set your home security alarm.
- Don't leave a message on your answering machine that you are away. Instead, forward your phone calls to your cell phone.
- Turn off the water to your washing machine. Do not turn off the water main as your home fire sprinklers will not operate in the event of a fire.
- Ask a neighbor to occasionally park his/her car in your driveway to give the appearance someone is home.
- Close window blinds or shutters to keep the house cooler.
- Notify the guard staff that you will be away and update your QuickPass® gate list so unwanted guests/vendors do not have access through the gates.

Register for Vacation Watch

Place your home on vacation watch. The Maricopa Sheriff's Office Vacation Watch program benefits homeowners while they are away. When registered for Vacation Watch, patrol officers regularly check on your home and notify you if something is wrong. Call the Sheriff's office at 602.876.1742 to request a vacation watch while you are away or go to www.nvposse.org to complete the online Vacation Watch form.