

# Securing Your Home While You're Away

By **Lisa Hall**

*Your Professional Real Estate Expert*



Summer is winding to a close and soon it will be time for families to celebrate the Fall and Winter Holidays. With these celebrations comes travel. If you are like me, you worry about your home while you are away. Here are some practical tips to keep your home secure and your mind on your travels.

1. Hire someone to bring in mail, newspapers and any packages. For longer trips you may want to have these deliveries stopped.
2. Install a couple of light timers that come on at dusk and turn off at bedtime.
3. Keep a radio on inside your home. Noise can make a intruder think someone is home.
4. Keep pets at home and hire a pet sitter if this is feasible. A pet sitter will feed, water and walk your pets. Most will even bring in mail and newspapers.
5. Leave the front porch light on.
6. Store your valuables in a safe deposit box.
7. Have an updated inventory of your valuables. Take pictures of everything and put them in your safe deposit box.
8. Make sure hedges and bushes are trimmed close to the house.
9. Have a trusted neighbor or friend park their car in your driveway.
10. If your home is listed with a Realtor, ask if they are willing to stop by and check in on your house. I've even been known to put out the garbage! I also like to go by my listings to make sure all doors have been secured after showings.

Taking a few small steps to improve your home's security will give you peace of mind so that you can enjoy yourself!

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