



# Security Measures When Leaving Home

## Daily errands

1. Lock all windows and doors
2. Close your shades
3. Set your home alarm (if you have one)
4. Turn on some interior lights if you will be gone after sunset

## Multiday trips

1. Lock all windows and doors
2. Close your shades
3. Set your home alarm (if you have one)
4. Set some of your interior lights on timers so the house appears occupied at night
5. Leave your exterior carriage lights switched ON since they operate on light sensors and will automatically come on at sunset and go off at sunrise
6. Join/Form a Neighborhood Watch (NW) and notify them when you will be gone
7. Alert a trusted neighbor of your travel plans if you don't belong to a NW group
8. Notify your NW or immediate neighbors of anyone (e.g. gardener, relatives, house sitter) who might be on your property while you're gone
9. Share contact information for yourself, immediate neighbors and anyone who will be housesitting so anyone can be reached in an emergency
10. Put your mail on hold while you are gone (can be done on-line at [usps.com](https://usps.com))
11. Put water softener exchange visits on hold while you are gone
12. Have a neighbor pickup any deliveries that are left at your door
13. Contact the Sheriff's office and request vacation checks while you are gone
14. Program one or more TVs to turn on and off automatically (most TVs can do this) to give the appearance of activity in the house at night and during the day
15. Purchase a TV simulator and put it in your bedroom instead of using a TV
16. Put your cash, jewelry, unused credit cards, spare keys, garage door openers and internet account passwords in your home safe (if you have one) or in a safe deposit box at your local bank
17. Park your cars in the garage if possible
18. Put your car in the garage and close the garage door when loading your luggage to avoid being observed then cover your bags so they can't be seen
19. Put only your last name, telephone number and/or email address on any luggage tags to minimize the chance of your address being compromised by baggage handlers
20. Never post photos of yourself or allow fellow travelers to post photos of you on social media while you're traveling since it advertises that your house is empty