

As always Luna Pier has its snowbirds that are heading south for the winter. Here are a few reminders on what to do before heading south for the winter or just going for a week or two vacation. These are some essential tips to protect your property and give you peace of mind while you're enjoying your time off:



1. Secure All Entry Points

Before leaving, double-check that all doors and windows are securely locked. Consider adding additional security measures, such as deadbolts, sliding door locks, and security bars on windows. If you have a home security system, make sure it's activated and functioning properly. Some systems allow you to monitor your home remotely, so ensure that your app or online portal is set up for easy access. You can also install smart locks or video doorbells, which let you control access and monitor any activity from your phone while you're away.

2. Make Your Home Look Lived-In

Burglars often target homes that appear unoccupied, so it's important to create the illusion that someone is still at home. Consider putting lights on timers, which can turn on and off at random intervals, simulating normal household activity. If possible, arrange for someone to park their car in your driveway, or ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail and newspapers. You can also temporarily suspend mail delivery through the post office to avoid a pile-up of letters that could tip off potential intruders.

3. Take Precautions with Your Valuables

Keep your valuables out of sight. Store expensive electronics, jewelry, and important documents in a secure location like a safe or a locked drawer. If you're worried about the security of items that must stay at home, consider removing them or asking a neighbor or friend to store them temporarily. Avoid posting on social media that you're away, as this could alert thieves to the fact that your home is empty. If you're planning on sharing photos from your vacation, do so after you've returned.

4. Unplug Electronics and Turn Off Utilities

To reduce the risk of fire or power surges, unplug unnecessary electronics such as computers, TVs, and kitchen appliances. You can also consider turning off the main water supply to avoid any potential leaks or plumbing issues while you're gone. Additionally, setting your thermostat to an energy-efficient temperature can save you money and ensure that your home stays safe while you're away—especially if you're leaving during extreme weather.

5. Inform Trusted Neighbors or Friends

Let a trusted neighbor, friend, or family member know when you'll be gone and provide them with emergency contact information. This person can keep an eye on your property, collect packages or mail, and even perform basic checks on your home in your absence. Make sure they have access to your contact information and any necessary keys in case of an emergency.

By taking these simple yet effective steps, you can enjoy your vacation without worrying about the security of your home. A little preparation goes a long way in keeping your property safe and ensuring that you come back to a worry-free, well-protected home.