



California
METRO PATROL

VACATION CHECKLIST

This is a pre-vacation security list; tailor it to suit your home and property.

X	TASK
	Tidy up inside and outside your home.
	Keep up appearances: schedule lights, TV, AC to go on/off automatically with timers.
	Make arrangements for your pets ahead of time.
	Clear the fridge and pantry of food that will go bad.
	Empty all trash receptacles to prevent unwanted guests or fire fuel.
	Especially during colder weather, clear out gutters and storm drains.
	Close and lock your windows: on upper floors; back doors; basement doors and windows.
	Unplug unnecessary appliances to save energy; power strips may save power when not in use.
	Adjust your thermostat and AC units to 4-degrees above or below normal.
	Switch or program your water heater to vacation mode.
	Pay upcoming bills.
	Notify your bank you'll be traveling; set fraud alerts on your accounts.
	Schedule holds on mail, newspapers, periodicals, water deliveries, etc.
	With extended stays, shut off gas and water main to prevent leaks and fires.
	Inventory your valuables and take photos or video of them; record serial numbers.
	Hide valuables in a safe, safe deposit or disguised as innocuous items.
	Be sure to secure your sensitive data (birth certificates, insurance papers, etc.) safely.
	Lock and stow firearms in a gun safe.
	Download an ICE (In Case of Emergency) app on your phone with health & medical data.
	Notify a relative/friend of your itinerary; update them when you return back.
	Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your property periodically.
	Collect all hidden spare keys.
	Lock the gates: backyard, back entrance, basement, outside storage areas
	Install motion sensor lights/flood lights: driveway, side areas, back doors, etc.
	Install a security system: alarms, cameras, monitoring; <i>arm it when you leave.</i>
	- Alternately: invest in a motion-activated security camera & video system
	- And/or install in a video doorbell.

X	TASK
	- And/or install a smart keyless lock to your door; this can be monitored remotely.
	Sync environmental sensors (flood, smoke, carbon monoxide) to your security system.
	Limit social media announcements before you leave.
	Post trip photos to social media when you return.
	Do not change your outgoing message/email auto-reply to indicate you are on vacation.
	Protect your identification on luggage tags - list your phone number, not your address.