



A Message from Mike-the-Locksmith

a mighty trunk may grow." --Aeschylus

Dear Readers,

We're heading into the relaxed, carefree days of summer and holidays, so I decided to share some ways to protect your home while you are on vacation.



Ways to Protect Your Home While on Vacation



With a few simple steps, you can lower your home's risk of being targeted and compromised by burglars.

- **Ask Someone to Keep an Eye on Things**

Build relationships with your neighbors, so that when you go away, you can ask them to be the first line of defense while you're gone, and you can return the favor when they're away.

You'll also want to give them your vacation contact information, just in case of emergency.

- **Install Timers on Your Electronics or [Get Kevin, the Virtual Roommate](#)**

A dark house at night for a week straight is a sure sign that someone away.

- **Stop the Mail** An overflowing mailbox and a pile of packages on the front step are clear indications that someone hasn't been home for a while.
- **Leave the Blinds Open (If You Normally Do)** It may seem strange and you might feel that you don't want anyone peeping into your home while you're not there, but it's also an obvious giveaway to burglars that something is outside the normal routine.
- **Beware of Social Media** Posting vacation photos online broadcasts to the world that you aren't home right now, and your stuff is ripe for the taking.
- **Lock Everything** Before you leave for a vacation, go through the house and lock absolutely every window and every door.
- **Don't Leave Spare Keys Out** If you have a spare key hidden somewhere — under a mat, attached to a mailbox, in a fake rock — now is the time to remove them and stow them away. If a would-be thief knows you're away, they'll feel free to take their time in searching for spare keys. They also know all the most common hiding spots way better than you do, so don't try fooling them.
- **Lock the Garage Door**
- **Don't Lead Burglars to Your Home With Your GPS** Many a GPS, either the portable or built-in style, has led thieves directly to unsuspecting homes. When a car is left at the airport, a bad guy can break in, turn on the GPS unit and often find out exactly where home is. If you have a portable unit, don't leave it in the car either at the airport, or in your hotel parking lot at night if you're road-tripping.
- **Stash Valuables in the Safe**
- **Consider Hiring a House Sitter for Long Trips**

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