

THE KEY TO A WORRY-FREE VACATION?

Making plans to keep things safe at home while you're away.



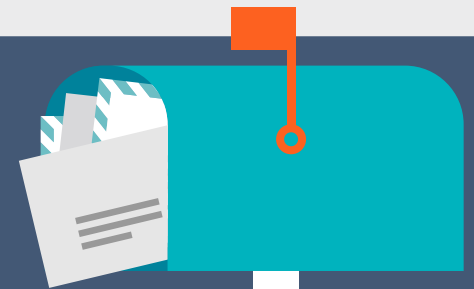
Whether you live in a high-rise, townhome, or other property type, it's important to prepare your home for time away. Here are some simple tips to safeguard your home and property, and to reduce energy bills while you're off enjoying the summer.



Don't Advertise That No One's Home

- Use your garage for loading the car
- Stop your mail and newspaper delivery
- Set your answering machine to answer on the second ring
- Set your lights and TVs with a timer to turn on and off at appropriate times
- Make sure your property is maintained – including lawn, landscaping and pool
- Don't broadcast your travel plans on social media such as Facebook or Twitter
- Let your community manager know you'll be gone, so they can keep an eye on things for you

A PHONE RINGING OFF THE HOOK is a good indication no one is home – be sure to turn down your phone's ringer volume!



A PILE OF MAIL OR NEWSPAPERS is a sure sign that you're out of town – arrange for your mail to be held at canadapost.ca.



Conserve Energy and Power Costs While You're Gone

- Keep your air conditioner on, but set at a higher temperature
- Turn your hot water heater to a low setting, or turn off the circuit breaker or gas valve since it won't be in use while you're away

Ask A Friend or Neighbour...



- To house sit or pet sit, if you have a pet
- To keep an eye on your unit
- To park a car in your driveway occasionally
- To put your trash out and retrieve the trash cans in your absence
- To keep a key and emergency contact number for you while you're gone

Bring them a souvenir to show your appreciation and don't forget to return the favor when they're away! Soon you will have a trusted network of neighbors or friends who rely on each other during times spent away from home.

Planning for a Vacation Helps You:

- ✓ Save money and energy
- ✓ Keep intruders away from your property
- ✓ Enjoy peace of mind while you're away from home



For more advice on this topic from a professional property management company, [contact FirstService Residential](#), North America's leading property management company.