

Pre-Travel Checklist

General Home Preparation

- Water plants and mow lawn before leaving or arrange for a neighbor to care for them while away
- Unplug any appliances sensitive to power surges (computers, microwaves, and tv's etc.)
- Dial your thermostat up or down to match the temperature of the season
- Stop home-delivery services (mail, newspaper, diapers, etc.) or arrange to have items picked up by a neighbor
- Arrange for pet care at a kennel or in your home

Security

- Lock all windows and doors securely and remove any keys hidden outside the house
- Tell trustworthy neighbors that you'll be away and how they can reach you in an emergency
- Turn on your answering machine/voice mail at home & work, and let contacts know you are out of town
- Set lights and a radio on timers. Turn up the radio loud enough so it can be heard outside
- Close blinds and curtains

Kitchen

- Store food in your freezer to prevent having to run to the store as soon as you return home
- Remove perishable items from your refrigerator
- Empty waste baskets & run garbage disposal to eliminate possibility of unpleasant odors
- Wash the dishes (You'll be sorry when you come back if you forget this!)

Getting Your Car Ready

- Check your spare tire and jack to ensure they are both in working order
- Check oil level, tire pressure, and coolant level, and all other fluid levels
- Have a mechanic inspect the car before long trips
- Pack a first-aid kit into the trunk
- Pack a breakdown kit in the trunk (flares, jumper cables, fix-a-flat, emergency blanket, bottled water)

Personal Preparation

- Ask your doctor about necessary vaccinations or medical checkups/procedures prior to trip
- Update any personal identification so that it contains current information and a photograph
- Keep a list of current medications and an emergency contact's info in wallet for emergencies
- Pick up cash, change, and traveler's checks at the bank
- Get a telephone calling card and take it with you
- Tell your friends where they can write to you at your vacation or out-of-town address
- Pay rent & other bills. If you'll be gone for an extended period of time, arrange for a someone else to pay bills
- Wash clothes that you're not packing so you'll have clean clothes at home when you return from your trip
- Break in new shoes to prevent blisters

Sanity Savers

- Make a "fun bag" for each child and include games, books, toys, audi player with headphones, and snacks
- Purchase postcard stamps and take with you
- Remember your address book or create a sheet of address labels of people to send postcards to.
- Bring your favorite pillow with you so you will be comfortable on your trip or in the car.

Miscellaneous Reminders

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