



[Tips to keep your home safe](#)

Tips to keep your home safe before leaving for vacation

It's summer time and it is no secret that most of us go on vacation. A house or apartment left empty while its owners are traveling is a tempting target for criminals. Taking steps to secure your home and your belongings is one of the best things you could do at this time before you leave for vacation. Making sure you have the right insurance coverage on your property and contents is the first step to achieving total peace of mind. Contact us at Nagico to find out more about our [Homeowners SuperPlus policy or our Renters/Content Insurance](#). Here are some basic preventative measures (which will take you only minutes to complete) but can work wonders to help you avoid such situations.



1. Ask a Friend to Help- ask a friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your house while you're away. Ask him or her to drive by your home once every day or so to check on the place. Give this person a key so that he or she can bring your mail in, feed your pet; water your plants, etc. If you don't use a garage, you may also want to give this person a key to your car because your vehicle may need to be moved. You should also give them your contact information in case of emergencies.



2. Don't Tip-off Criminals on the Web- with technology now at the swipe of your fingertips, many people get carried away and proceed to post their entire life story on the World Wide Web via social networks like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. It's important to stop

and think: Who exactly is reading your posts? Would you announce to a crowd that you will be leaving your house unattended for two weeks this summer? If not, then you should think twice about posting your detailed vacation plans on Twitter or Facebook -- especially if that information is visible to internet users other than your friends and family (and it probably is).

3. Curtains Closed -- or Open? The Lights Are on But No One's Home - You may decide to close your curtains to prevent people from peering inside your home to see whether you're there. However, closed curtains also stop those who aim to help -- the police, your neighbors or friends -- from seeing inside your house. So what's your best bet? **Leave your curtains exactly as you usually keep them when you're home**, since noticeable changes could hint that you're not around anymore. Move expensive items, like jewelry or computers, out of plain sight if they're visible from the window. Don't leave your lights on at home throughout your entire vacation in an effort to make it look like someone is in the house. Your electric bill will end up more costly than your mortgage/rent and, of course, leaving the lights on is not exactly "green" behavior. Plus, house lights blazing throughout the night and day might look a bit odd. This is also one area you can ask your friend or neighbor to assist in.

4. Pull the Plug - Unplug your television, computer, microwave and other appliances to protect them from power surges. Do this to save power as well.

5. Stop Your Mail- Either place a "stop" order on mail and newspapers, or arrange to have your friend or neighbor pick up your mail while you're away. Otherwise, a week's worth of papers piled on your front step or porch could signal to criminals that this particular homeowner is out of town.

Once you have completed these easy steps, then it's time to really relax and enjoy your vacation. Bon voyage!

