

PROTECTING YOUR HOME WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Do

- **TURN MAINS WATER OFF**
It may not be the first thing that comes to mind during holiday preparations however, escape of water claims are in the thousands during the summer months, so it's definitely something to be mindful of.
- **SECURE HOUSE/OUTBUILDINGS**
Double check your windows and doors, and don't leave spare keys in obvious locations.
- **TELL A TRUSTED NEIGHBOUR OR FRIEND/FAMILY MEMBER ABOUT YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS**
Let someone that you trust know about your trip, and if you can get someone to check on your property, that's another great safety net.
- **CREATE THE ILLUSION THAT YOUR PROPERTY IS OCCUPIED**
Keeping lights on timers, or having a system where you can control the lights while you're away is a great way to deter burglars.
- **KEEP VALUABLES HIDDEN FROM SIGHT**
Valuables that are easy to see when passing are more likely to trigger a break in. Make sure they're hidden well, or if possible, in a locked and secure place.
- **CHECK THAT YOU HAVE ADEQUATE COVER**
Taking the time to assess your insurance needs is essential. Consider factors such as the value of your belongings, potential risks, and any recent home improvements.

Don't

- **IGNORE WEATHER WARNINGS**
Stay informed about weather forecasts and take precautions to protect your home from storms.
- **ADVERTISE YOUR ABSENCE**
Avoid posting about your holiday on social media until you return.
- **OVERLOAD ELECTRICAL SOCKETS**
With increased use of fans and air conditioners, avoid overloading sockets to prevent fires. Be cautious about what you are leaving on and plugged in if you are going away, turn off anything that isn't necessary.
- **LEAVE FOR WEEKS WITHOUT CHECKING WITH YOUR INSURER**
Most home insurance policies have limitations on how long a property can be left unoccupied. While brief vacations typically don't require notification, extended absences may affect your coverage. If you plan to be away for an extended period, it's crucial to inform your insurer.
- **FORGET ADEQUATE COVER**
Overlooking proper insurance can have costly consequences. Ensure your home is protected against unforeseen events like theft, fire, or weather damage. Review your policy regularly to confirm it aligns with your property's value and your lifestyle.