

☐ Make sure that all gas appliances are in good order and that pilot lights are working.

☐ Have a neighbor put one of their garbage cans in your drive on collection day.

☐ Ask your neighbor to park their extra vehicle in your driveway during your absence.

☐ Before leaving make sure all doors and windows are locked and fastened.

☐ Lock your garage door, and secure with a padlock on the inside.

☐ Make sure the last person out locks the door, then take a walk around the house checking all doors and windows.

☐ If you are leaving a car or other vehicle in your driveway, make sure it is locked.

In case of a break-in, the neighbor should know how to reach you and your insurance agent-and should give this information to the appropriate law enforcement agency when reporting a burglary.



We support the National
Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign

TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

For more information, contact:

Huntsville Police Department
Community Relations Unit
P. O. Box 2085
Huntsville, Alabama 35804-2085

Vacation Tips



**HUNTSVILLE POLICE
DEPARTMENT**



INTRODUCTION

A vacation, a weekend away from home, or a business trip, should be a pleasant experience for you and your family. You can make each trip more enjoyable and carefree if you will take a few simple steps to reduce the possibility that your house will be burglarized or vandalized while you are gone. Returning to a home that has been broken into is an unpleasant finish to any trip. A vacant house-or one that appears to be vacant-is an appealing target to a burglar.

This brochure has tips for protecting your home while you are away. Some of these things you should do one or two days before you leave; the rest can be done in a few minutes before you leave.

To help remember, carry this list with you as you prepare to leave, and check off each item as you do it.

Don't discuss your absence in public, and don't give information about your vacation to the newspaper-you can give details when you return.

SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE YOU LEAVE . . .

☐ Notify the Huntsville Police Department about your departure and return dates and give a name and telephone number of a neighbor or relative to notify in case of a burglary, fire, or other emergency. Your home will be periodically checked by officers patrolling your area.

☐ Have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail and newspaper each day.

☐ Make arrangements to have your grass cut and watered while you are gone. Have someone check daily to remove papers and flyers from your yard and doorway.

☐ If you have valuables in the house, take them to your bank for storage in a safe deposit box. Deposit extra cash in your bank account.

☐ Place valuables so they can't be seen from porch windows. Be sure you have an inventory list of small appliances and valuables.

☐ Make sure any broken windows, door locks or window locks are repaired.

☐ Put things away. Lawn furniture, bicycles, etc., should be put away before leaving. Items left out can be easily stolen.

☐ Arrange with a neighbor or relative to watch your house, give them a key and let them know where and how you can be reached in an emergency. Write down their telephone number so you can check with them during your trip.

☐ Arrange inspection by a trusted neighbor if you will be gone more than a few days, to be sure nothing has been disturbed.

☐ Notify your Community Watch Block Captain with information concerning your vacation.

JUST BEFORE YOU LEAVE . . .

☐ Unplug or turn down the volume control on your telephone so it cannot be heard from the outside.

☐ Set an electrical timer to turn some lights on and off during the evening hours. Added protection can be achieved if you have a neighbor rearrange the timer-controlled lights to present a different pattern for a part of your absence.

☐ Unplug all electrical appliances such as radios, television sets, irons, washers and fans to prevent possible damage from electrical storms.