

BLOCK WATCH



Going Away? – Home Security Tips

Vacations and summer day trips are in full swing with the kids out of school. If you are planning on being away from home for the day or longer, you will want to take steps to protect your home and its belongings while you are away.



Here are some tips to keep your home secure while you're away:

- ✓ Make sure your residence looks lived in; not empty. Have a friend or neighbour visit your home often to check on things.
- ✓ Invest in a timer for your lights, radio and even TV.
- ✓ Test your smoke and alarm systems a few days before departing.
- ✓ Leave a radio on a talk station to give the illusion of people being home.
- ✓ Cancel your newspaper and arrange for your mail to be brought inside every day.
- ✓ Ask a neighbour to place your garbage cans at the curb on your normal pickup day(s) and return them after the garbage pickup is made.
- ✓ Turn the ringer on your phone down low or off so thieves are not alerted to your absence by a ringing phone.
- ✓ Refrain from advertising your plans on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.
- ✓ Remove the garage door opener if you're leaving a vehicle outside your house. Have someone move your vehicle's position periodically, to make it appear it's being used.
- ✓ Take any valuable items to a bank safety deposit box to ensure they're protected.
- ✓ Lock up tools, BBQs and ladders and place them out of sight; set and test your timers; lock and check doors and windows; and leave shades and blinds in normal positions.

