

Before You Go: Winter Vacation Prep Checklist

Prevent property damage:

- ☐ Set your thermostat to at least 17°C (62°F) and upward of 19°C (66°F).
- ☐ Insulate exposed pipes and leave faucets dripping slightly.
- ☐ Clean gutters and check the roof for debris or damage.
- ☐ Unplug non-essential electronics to save energy.
- ☐ Notify a trusted neighbour or friend about your travel dates.

Secure your property:

- ☐ Close and lock all doors and windows.
- ☐ Lock gates and tool sheds, and remove any items that could be stolen, or blown around by wind or snow.
- ☐ Install or check security cameras and alarms.
- ☐ Stop mail or arrange for someone to collect it.
- ☐ Store valuables in a secure, hidden place.
- ☐ Lock vehicles left behind, and park in a garage if possible
- ☐ Test and set timers for lights to make your home look occupied.
- ☐ If snow is expected, hire someone to clear your driveway and walkways to keep your home looking maintained.
- ☐ Empty trash cans and refrigerators to avoid odours or pests.

Organize important documents:

- ☐ Confirm travel insurance coverage.
- ☐ Make copies of passports, tickets, and travel itineraries.
- ☐ Share your travel plans and emergency contact info with a family member or friend.

Prepare your vehicle:

- ☐ Check tire pressure and fluid levels.
- ☐ Pack an emergency kit (blanket, flashlight, first aid supplies).
- ☐ Ensure your gas tank is full.

Bonus tips for peace of mind

- ☐ Download all travel confirmations to your phone or print hard copies.
- ☐ Plan ahead with your pharmacy to refill medications and ensure you have enough to last the entire trip.
- ☐ Double-check luggage for essential items (passports, medication, chargers).
- ☐ Before you hit the road, confirm that electronics are charged and ready to go, (phones, cameras, and laptops.)
- ☐ Take photos during your final walkthrough of important areas (*such as unplugged appliances, locked doors, etc.*) to avoid dreaded 'Did we turn off the stove!?' moments when you're away.