



Preparing Your Home For Extended Absences

- Remove everything from screened lanais and guest room step outs. Lock sliders and close drapes or blinds. You may want to add a bar in the track of the sliders for added security.
- If you turn off refrigerator, unplug it so that the lights don't stay on. Prop doors open to prevent mildew.
- Turn off faucets to washer hoses and icemaker.
- Turn off water to your unit from the outside.
- Turn off hot water heater at panel box.
- Leave dishwasher closed to prevent the seal from drying out.
- Spray a very minute amount of WD40 in disposal, while it runs, to prevent sticking and rusting.
- Unplug appliances, lights and phones.
- Leave cable TV boxes plugged in to get any updates while you are gone. But you can unplug the TV itself.
- In bathrooms, close all drains, making sure there is water in traps first. Plug all overflow openings.
- Clean and flush toilets. Cover bowls tightly with plastic wrap and close lid, placing a heavy object on top of the seat.
- Set thermostat: Temperature to 80 degrees, humidistat at 62 percent. (If you don't have a humidistat installed on your air conditioner to conserve energy and control humidity, you should consider it.)
- If you do hire a licensed and insured home watch service provider to check on your home during your absence, he/she may have a checklist of things they perform and provide you with a copy. They should inform you of water or pest problems.
- Your key, phone number and e-mail address should be provided to your home watch service provider or a friend that will be checking on your property.

- Notify post office and management of your change of address if you are having your mail forwarded.
- Stop newspaper delivery. If you do stop newspaper delivery, remember to call and restart prior to your return. If you request your US Postal Service not deliver magazines and newsletters, you will have to call and request that service be restored. Otherwise, your *Meadoword* may not continue to be delivered.
- Make sure that shrubs around the house are trimmed so they do not act as cover for unwanted activity around your home.
- Avoid making posts on social media accounts referencing that you are leaving for the season or on an extended vacation.
- If you are going to be away for a period of time, it's a good idea to make The Meadows Safety Patrol aware. The number is 941-809-0084.
- Place outdoor lights on a timer/and or consider motion detector lights to illuminate the property.
- If your extended absence coincides with hurricane season, make sure you prepare your home properly before your departure. You may want to consider having a professional property manager look after your property in your absence.
- Check all gutters, downspouts and drains to ensure they are not damaged and are clear of debris.
- Pick up all loose objects in your yard and exterior of the home, they may become projectiles and cause damage during high windstorms.

Travel safely and have a great summer.