

Checklist General



Security Tech Germany

Vacation

"Vacation time is burglary time."

This statement is not really accurate anymore. Burglars are now active at all times of the year, since a large number of spontaneous perpetrators are now involved. You should thus avoid providing obvious signs that allow an intruder to recognize that a house or apartment is unoccupied.

- **Does your mailbox overflow with mail while you are gone?**

Your mailbox should be emptied on a regular basis while you are gone. Most publishers allow you to discontinue your newspaper subscription while you are on vacation.

- **Are the shutters always drawn down?**

Use a timer or ask a neighbor to raise and lower them on a regular basis. If your house is being monitored, this gives the impression that it is occupied.

- **Are the windows and terrace doors closed the entire day?**

In this case, the same applies: have your neighbor air the place out now and then – with the additional side benefit that you won't have musty air in your home when you return from your vacation.

- **Does your garden run riot while you are gone?**

Ask your neighbor to mow your lawn at least every two weeks and to pull the worst of the weeds. He'll be glad to have you do the same when he goes on vacation.

- **Are the lights always off – both inside and outside?**

Timers or sensors that react to light intensity can help here – because the tough guys are often more frightened of light than anything else.

- **Are your garbage cans never or always on the street for emptying?**

Let your neighbor use some of the space in your garbage can. Perhaps he has some things he'd like to get rid of.

- **Does your answering machine make reference to your vacation?**

All it takes is a call for intruders to know how much time they have left. Choose a neutral message instead.

- **Is there a message on the mailbox for the mailman that he should ring at the neighbors?**

You should avoid that as well. The postman will ask next door whether they can accept a package even if you don't provide this message. Don't put a burglary invitation on your mailbox.

- **Do you already use a housesitter service?**

This involves having what are known as housesitters live in your home while you are gone. They take care of any work that needs to be done and ensure that your house does not sit empty.

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- If you have additional safeguards – are they all in the locked position?
Additional safeguards don't do any good if they aren't used! Particularly valuable objects should be kept in a bank's safety deposit box during your absence and/or photographed. Should something happen, you'll be able to prove ownership. Did you answer No to all the questions? Enjoy your vacation. If a Yes was among the answers, take care of this problem and increase your security during your absence!