



VACATION and TRAVEL REMINDERS

Protect Your Home While You Are Away

When you leave your home, whether for a quick weekend getaway or a longer vacation, in addition to making sure you have a great time, you'll want to take some basic safety precautions to keep your home and belongings as safe as possible. This makes most of us think about burglar-proofing, but preparations extend beyond locking doors and setting timers.

Hold Your Mail – Mail piling up in the mailbox or at the front door or packages/papers on the porch is an instant tip-off that no one is home.

- **Mail** - If you will be gone for more than a few days you have a few options: ask a trusted friend/neighbor to pick up your mail, fill out a yellow USPS Authorization to Hold Mail card (give to your mail carrier), or go to www.USPS.com and schedule a USPS Hold Mail Service (you can have held for a minimum of 3 days and up to 30 days) or you can download the USPS Mobile app. Select the Hold Mail icon and create an account.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®	Authorization to Hold Mail	
We can hold your mail for a minimum of 3 days, but for no more than 30 days.		
Instructions: Complete this form. Then, do one of the following: (1) Give to your carrier; place in a collection box; place in your mailbox (must complete the reverse side). (2) Present to an employee at your local Post Office™.		
Additional options for scheduling USPS Hold Mail™ requests:		
1. Visit usps.com/requestholdmail and create an account.		
2. Download the USPS Mobile® app . Select the Hold Mail icon and create an account.		
FOR POST OFFICE USE ONLY		
Date Received		
Clerk		Bin Number (if applicable)
Carrier		Route Number
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer has picked up accumulated mail.		Resume Delivery of Mail (MM/DD/YYYY) By

PS Form 8076, January 2020

Note: The person who prepares this form states that he or she is the person, executor, guardian, authorized officer, or agent of the person for whom the Postal Service would hold mail under this request. Anyone submitting false or inaccurate information on this form is subject to punishment by fine or imprisonment or both under Sections 2, 1001, 1702 and 1708 of Title 18, United States Code (U.S.C.).

Privacy Act Statement: Your information will be used to provide hold mail service at the address and for the dates that you request, to facilitate communication and to verify your identity when applying for Hold Mail Service in person. Collection is authorized by 39 U.S.C. 401, 403, and 404. Providing the information is voluntary, but if not provided, we may be unable to process your request. We do not disclose your information to third parties without your consent, except to facilitate the transaction, to act on your behalf or request, or as legally required. This includes the following limited circumstances: to a congressional office on your behalf; to financial entities regarding financial transaction issues; to a USPS auditor; to entities, including law enforcement, as required by law or in legal proceedings; and to contractors and other entities aiding us to fulfill the service (service providers). For more information regarding our privacy policy visit us at www.usps.com/privacypolicy.



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- **Package Delivery** - If you are expecting a package from UPS or FedEx and will not be home to receive it.
 - Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to be on the lookout for the package and hold it for you until you return home.
 - Have the package redelivered to someone's house that is going to be home.
 - Call the FG Police Department when you receive notice that a package has been delivered to your home and an officer will retrieve the item, Upon your return, you will need to verify your identity.

Create the Illusion of Someone Home - Set at least one light on a timer or multiple ones at different times and in different rooms. You can also set a television or radio on a timer to create the typical noise and flickering lights of an average family home at night. If you have a landline phone, turn the volume down. During the winter, arrange for snow removal. Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway periodically to create the appearance of someone coming and going throughout the day/week. In the summer, keep your yard maintained – arrange for someone to cut your lawn if you will be gone more than a week. You might want to consider installing outside lights that operate with a photocell which will give the impression someone is turning the outside lights on and off.

Trust a Friend AND the Fairfield Glade Police Department - Leave your contact information and a spare key with a friend/neighbor in case of an emergency. Stop by the Fairfield Glade Police Department and fill out a House Visit Form or online at www.fgpolice.org. Our Police Department has a dedicated officer who will check on your property several times a week. Be sure to remove any keys hidden outside; you don't want someone else to find them while you are gone.



SECURITY **HOUSE VISIT FORM**

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DATE LEAVING: _____

DATE TO RETURN: _____ OR

CHECK BOX IF TO CALL UPON RETURN Between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday

EMERGENCY PHONE NO: _____

COMMENTS: _____

*** DROP IN MAIL BOX AT POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE ***

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Mum's the Word – Stay on the safe side and do not mention your trip to anyone but those that need to know. Do NOT trust social media. Posting pictures while you are gone is the same as telling everyone that your house is empty, come help yourself.

Unplug - Unplug all unnecessary appliances (except those on timers) to protect your home from an electrical fire or power surge. This goes not only for the big stuff, like TVs and computers, but also for a toaster, coffee maker and other small appliances. Turn off your water supply at the street or main incoming valve to the house to avoid damage from possible pipe leaks/breaks. Washer hoses, ice makers, and kitchen pipes have all been known to develop unexpected and untimely leaks. If you can, put your landline phone on vacation as it can possibly save you money. Otherwise, be sure to turn the volume down on the ringtone so someone outside does not hear it going unanswered.

Keep Your Cool and Your Valuables – Adjust your thermostat to save on electricity while you are gone. In the winter, set the heat to 55 degrees – warm enough to keep pipes from freezing, but cool enough to save electricity. During the summer, set your air conditioning to 85 degrees. Also, consider lowering the temperature on your water heater or better yet, turn it off at the circuit breaker if it is on its own dedicated switch. Lock up all valuables (jewelry, the deed to your home, wills, or any sensitive documents) in a fire-proof safe.

LOCK Your Doors and Windows – If you have a home security company, let them know you will be away. Make sure ALL doors and windows are locked. Almost one third of all break-ins are through unlocked doors and windows. Eliminate ladders or house-hugging tree limbs to make sure there is no easy access to your upstairs windows.

Emergency Road Kit - If traveling by car, prepare an emergency road kit and do the following:

- Have your car ready and start out with a full tank of gas.
- Try not to leave on the heaviest days to avoid congestion.
- Make sure you plan for **weather contingencies** on the way to your destination and be prepared for inclement weather on your way back home and when you arrive.
- Plan ahead – Know where you are going and how to get there. Download the latest GPS data or obtain a new map. Check for construction delays. You might want to use Waze, an app that will tell you how to get to your destination and



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identify areas with traffic backups.

Tennessee Law – Tennessee is a HANDS-FREE state. It is illegal for a driver to:

- hold a cell phone or mobile device with any part of your body.
- Write, send, or read any text-based communication.
- Reach for a cellphone or mobile device in a manner that requires the driver to no longer be in a seated driving position or properly restrained by a seat belt.
- Watch, record, or broadcast a video or movie on a cellphone or mobile device.

A driver is permitted to use an earpiece, headphone device, or device worn on the wrist to conduct voice-based communications. The driver may use one (1) button on a cell phone or mobile device to initiate or terminate voice communication. Voice-based communication may also be used to send text messages.

Travel –

- By Plane - check the airline you are flying to ensure you are following all rules and regulations. TSA rules: you are allowed to bring a quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes through the checkpoint. These are limited to 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) or less per item. This is also known as the 3-1-1 liquids rule.
- REAL ID -beginning May 7, 2025, you must provide a REAL ID or passport to fly on any commercial flight or to enter a Federal or Nuclear Power facility. Visit <https://www.tsa.gov/> for complete details.
- By Car – Avoid traveling on the busiest of days. It is illegal to text and drive in the state of Tennessee as well as many other states. Be sure to have an emergency kit and plan.

Security Alarm System - You may want to consider a security alarm system that is monitored or that you can regulate from your phone.

DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE!

"KEEP SAFE BY BEING PREPARED"