

# VACATION TIPS



Make securing your home a part of your vacation plans. Plan to take time in advance to assess your property security needs.

Crime prevention is the cornerstone for reducing crime. Burglars and thieves are, in general, opportunist. They look for victims that offer the least risk of being discovered; the greatest opportunity for easy gain; and, maximum potential to go unnoticed. Thus, by reducing a potential criminal's opportunity, you may in fact deter the crime.

- Fix any doors, windows and locks that are in need of repair.
- Stop all mail and newspaper deliveries and arrange for a family member or trusted neighbor to watch for any unusual activity around your property.
- Be sure to leave a house key, contact number and itinerary with the person in case of an emergency.
- Put lights and a radio on at least two different electric timers in different parts of the house. The person taking care of your home should change the on and off times at least once during your absence.
- Lock all windows and sliding glass doors.
- Move large valuables where they can't be seen from windows, and put small appliances out of sight to remove temptation. Items such as jewelry, important documents, and large sums of money should be kept in a safe deposit box, even when you are not on vacation.
- Make sure the garage is locked, and that any vehicle left at home is locked too.
- Any valuables that are stored in your garage such as off road vehicles, riding lawn mowers, tractors, motorcycles, tools and bikes should be secured and engraved with an identifying number and/or have serial numbers in a separate locked location.
- Turn off the water source to the home taking the pressure off the lines by opening a lower level faucet. This will protect the property in the event a water feed to an appliance ruptures and it will protect the property from vandals turning on external water faucets causing water loss and property damage.
- Make a last minute check to ensure the alarm is set and that you have taken care of everything.
- Have someone go around to every door and window, making sure each is locked.

The Sugarcreek Township Police Department will conduct vacation house checks while you are away. Call 848-6161 to set up a check or to find out more information.