

VACATION (and “SNOW BIRD”) RECOMMENDATIONS AND SECURITY TIPS

Before going away for an extended period, please remember to complete a *Property Check* form with security (call 627-1600 for information or click on “Property Check – Vacation Form on the PGA POA Website). Upon completion, security personnel will make regular perimeter inspection of your residence to check for signs of damage or evidence of break-in. Regardless of whether you have Elite Security check the exterior or not, you should have someone check the interior on a regular basis (a minimum of once per week). You should also consider the following tips:

PACKING: Most break-ins occur during the day. With this in mind, it is suggested that you pack your luggage in the car with the vehicle inside of your garage if possible so that anyone watching will not see that you are preparing for a trip.

NEWSPAPER AND MAIL: Nothing says, “I’m away, come break in” like a pile of newspapers in the driveway. Please discontinue your newspaper delivery before taking any trip. Your mail should be forwarded to your northern home or, if you are taking a vacation, either have the post office hold your mail or have a close friend pick it up daily.

TRASH: The POA requires trash to be placed at the curb no earlier than nightfall on the evening before pickup. If you are leaving town before a collection day, you will either need to rely on a friend to place your trash at the curb (and retrieve/store the can after collection) or you will need to bring trash to the dumpster behind Suite 29 in Shoppes on the Green. If you use the dumpster, please be sure you only use the POA’s dumpster and only if you are leaving town – it is not for construction debris.

LIGHTS: Leave some exterior lights on and have your ‘house-sitter’ or a friend replace bulbs as needed. Remember, the “bad guys” like to hide in the dark. By lighting the outside of your house, your neighbors and the security patrols will be better able to see anyone who may be in your yard or near your home.

Inexpensive timers can be placed on lamps throughout the inside of your home. If anyone is watching the house, this will help give the appearance of someone being home.

AIR CONDITIONER: *Under no circumstances should the air conditioning be turned completely off.* Doing so will cause mildew inside your home! Set the thermostat at approximately 80 degrees and set the fan switch on ‘automatic’. You may want to place an anti-algae tablet in the drain pan below the Air Handler to help prevent a blockage in the drain line and subsequent water damage. If you have a humidistat, follow manufacturer’s directions.

REFRIGERATION: If you will be gone for an extended period, empty the refrigerator, clean it and turn it off but LEAVE THE DOORS OPEN on both the refrigerator and freezer.

WATER: Turn off the master valve if possible. Do this at least 3 hours before leaving and, after one hour, check the valve for leaks. If it is not possible to turn off the water, have your house-sitter or a friend check the washing machine valves when they inspect the home weekly. If you will be gone for a month or longer, it is suggested that your house-sitter run water in the sinks and flush the toilets to keep internal components from drying out and causing odors.

TOILETS: Remove bluing containers from the tanks, they are caustic and may cause rust or damage to components in the tank.

ELECTRIC: Unplug major appliances such as televisions, radios, etc. or turn off the breakers in the breaker ("fuse") box. **DO NOT TURN THE BREAKER OFF FOR THE AIR CONDITIONER OR FOR THE REFRIGERATOR (UNLESS YOU ARE CLEANING OUT THE REFRIGERATOR AS ABOVE).** Please be sure breakers are left on for any circuits controlling exterior security lights and/or lamps placed on timers.

HURRICANE SEASON: If you will be away any time between June 1st through November 30th, this is during Florida's Hurricane Season and you will need to secure outside furniture (move it inside the house or garage), remove potted plants and other items that could become projectiles during high winds. Be sure you have a friend or neighbor who can secure your storm shutters.

THE ABOVE ARE OFFERED AS SUGGESTIONS. PGA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, ITS BOARD MEMBERS AND AGENTS ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE, IS IT RECOMMENDED YOU SPEAK WITH PROFESSIONALS REGARDING THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS AND HOW TO BEST SECURE YOUR HOME.