

VACATION AND ABSENTEE OWNER RECOMMENDATIONS AND SECURITY TIPS

Before going away for an extended period, please remember to complete a "Vacant Home Notification Form" (found at www.pga-poa.com). You should always have someone check the interior and exterior of your home, at least once per week, any time you are away. 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 in the garage if possible, so that anyone watching will not see that you are preparing to take a trip.

NEWSPAPER AND MAIL: Nothing says, "I'm away, come break in" like a pile of newspapers in the driveway or unclaimed deliveries at your door. Please discontinue newspaper deliveries before taking any trip. Your mail should be forwarded to your secondary address 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 can bring it to the dumpster in the LA Fitness Plaza at the North end (i.e.: closest to the carwash against the Turnpike). ONLY use this one dumpster and only if other arrangements cannot be made. Use of the POA's dumpster is for emergencies only and it is NOT for construction materials. Please do NOT place your trash in the cans along the main roadways.

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 set for interior lights to turn lamps on and off in various rooms inside your house. If anyone is watching the house, this will help give the appearance that someone is home.

AIR CONDITIONER: *Under no circumstances should the air conditioner be turned completely off.*

Doing so will cause mildew inside your home! Set the thermostat at 80 degrees and set the fan switch to "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 (unplug it) but leave the doors on both the refrigerator and freezer.

WATER: Turn off the master valve is 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 friend check the washing machine valves when they inspect our 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 “fuse box.” DO NOT TURN THE BREAKER OFF FOR THE AIR CONDITIONER OR FOR THE REFRIGERATOR (UNLESS YOU CLEAN OUT THE REFRIGERATOR AS ABOVE). Please be sure breakers are left on for any circuits that control exterior security lights, or any lamps placed on timers.

ALARMS/DOCUMENTS: Your alarm should be set, and you should have an alarm monitoring company. Personal papers and valuables should be put in a safe deposit box.

HURRICANE SEASON: If you will be away any time between June 1st and November 30th, this is 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 a storm or high winds. Be sure you have a friend or neighbor (or someone on call) who can secure your home with storm shutters while you are away.

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