

PLANNING

Home Before You Leave Checklist

A calm return begins with a secure home, clear handoff instructions, and fewer last-minute tasks.

Home and security

- ☐ Lock doors, windows, garage, gates, and sheds
- ☐ Set alarm and test remote access
- ☐ Use lighting timers where appropriate
- ☐ Pause deliveries and protect mail
- ☐ Secure valuables and sensitive documents
- ☐ Adjust HVAC appropriately
- ☐ Unplug nonessential appliances
- ☐ Avoid publicly posting exact absence dates

Kitchen and utilities

- ☐ Remove perishable food and trash
- ☐ Run dishwasher and empty sink
- ☐ Check taps, toilets, and visible leaks
- ☐ Set water heater or shutoff only when appropriate
- ☐ Confirm refrigerator and freezer are operating
- ☐ Arrange plant care
- ☐ Review storm or freeze precautions

Handoff

- ☐ Share itinerary with a trusted contact
- ☐ Provide emergency access instructions
- ☐ Arrange pet care
- ☐ Leave veterinarian and home-service contacts
- ☐ Explain alarm, utility, and appliance procedures
- ☐ Provide return date and flight information
- ☐ Leave only necessary keys and information

Before locking the door

TRUSTED CONTACT

PET OR HOME CARETAKER

LAST APPLIANCE TO CHECK

LAST-MINUTE ITEM TO PACK