

# Protection and Service

Erie Insurance Group...Protecting You From Loss

## Safeguard Your Home While You're Away

Summer's here and so is the vacation season. Every year families across the country load up and hit the road for some well deserved rest and relaxation. The last thing you want to do on vacation is worry about the safety of your home. Erie Insurance Group provides suggestions to offer peace of mind and help safeguard your home:

### First things first; lock it up

- Lock and fasten all doors and windows, including those within an attached garage. For added security, insert a nail or a screw into the frame of lower-level windows above the closed pane to prevent them from being lifted.
- Secure sliding glass doors by placing a metal rod or piece of plywood in the track.

### Create an "at-home" appearance

- Leave a locked vehicle in the driveway or let a neighbor park their vehicle in your driveway.
- Never leave a message on your answering machine saying you are out of town.

- Inside, use timers to turn lamps, radios and televisions on and off at regular intervals. Timers can be purchased at most hardware stores.
- Outside, keep the perimeter of your home well lit by installing low-voltage outdoor lighting.
  - Have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers. If you are planning an extended vacation, arrange for someone to mow your lawn.
  - Do not close drapes; leave them in their usual position.

### Take special precautions

- Trim trees and shrubs near any point of entry to your home.
- Install motion sensitive lighting outdoors.
- Lower the volume on the telephone ringer so unanswered rings cannot be heard.
- Hide cash, jewelry or important papers in a safe deposit box. Do not leave valuable items in the bedroom (that's the first place a thief will look).
- Make sure valuable items inside your home are not visible from the street.



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