8 HOME SAFETY TIPS

Before You Travel

SECURITY

- Lock all doors and windows (including garage and basement)
- Set alarm system and test it
- Use smart timers on lights to simulate occupancy
- Pause mail/package deliveries or ask a neighbor to collect them
- Avoid posting travel plans on social media until you return
- Notify a trusted neighbor/family member and provide contact numbers

FIRE

- Unplug non-essential appliances (coffee makers, space heaters, etc.)
- Turn off stove and confirm no burners left on
- Ensure smoke/CO detectors are working (fresh batteries)
- Set thermostat appropriately:
  - **Winter:** Keep heat on (typically 55–60°F minimum) to prevent frozen pipes
  - **Summer:** Avoid extreme humidity buildup (if applicable)

WATER

- Shut off the main water supply, if possible
- If not shutting off:
  - Install leak detectors or smart water shutoffs
- Turn off washing machine and dishwasher supply valves
- Check sump pump operation (and backup power if applicable)

FREEZE PROTECTION

- Maintain interior heat (never fully shut off)
- Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air circulation
- Drain exterior hoses and shut off outdoor spigots
- Consider having someone periodically check interior temperature

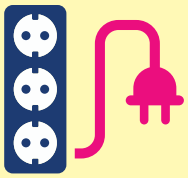
EXTERIOR & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- Secure outdoor furniture, grills, and loose items
- Clear gutters/downspouts to prevent overflow or ice dams

MONITORING & CHECK INS

- Arrange for periodic home checks (every few days if possible)
- Provide caretaker with:
  - Emergency contacts
  - Utility shut-off locations
- Consider smart home monitoring:
  - Cameras
  - Temperature sensors
  - Water/leak alerts

ELECTRICAL



- Unplug surge-sensitive electronics (TVs, computers)
- Turn off breakers for non-essential circuits if desired
- Ensure generator (if any) is safely stored and ready

BEST PRACTICES

- Shut off water (or install leak detection)
- Maintain heat (winter)
- Set alarm + lighting timers
- Have someone check the home regularly

A SAFE HOME TODAY

Preferred Mutual
Live Assured™

PEACE OF MIND ON YOUR TRIP