

SNOWBIRD OR LONG-TERM TRAVELER CHECKLIST

Make sure your home looks occupied & secure personal property

- Forward or stop mail and suspend newspaper service
- Set interior and exterior lights to timers so that your home is well lit
- Store valuables that you are leaving behind in a safe deposit box or with a trusted friend or relative

Secure your premises

- Deadbolt exterior doors
- Check the hinges on all windows
- Test your alarm system and contact your security company (and local police) to let them know you will be away
- Sliding glass doors should have a slide lock

Water supply maintenance

- To prevent leaks while you are away for an extended time, turn off the water supply (unless you have a fire sprinkler system)
- Drain pipes of standing water by opening the faucets and flush the toilet to remove water from the tank
- Consult a plumber for assistance blowing compressed air through the pipes and for guidance on how to use antifreeze in your plumbing system
- If keeping pipes on while you're away, be sure to keep the heat on to keep the pipes from freezing

tip: keep room and cabinet doors open to help circulate heat to the areas where pipes are

- Turn off water outside (for the garden hoses), to the washing machine and dishwasher. If it's not already, wrap insulation around the water heater and the pipes leading to and from it.

Other Winterizing Tips

- Clean gutters to reduce the chances of ice build-up
- Have an electrician inspect your panel and wiring.
- Make sure your home is unattractive to prowlers and pests
- Consider a roof inspection
- Leave details, like travel dates and your alarm code, with a trusted family member or friend who can regularly check up on your vacant home.
- Remove dead trees or large overhanging limbs that could damage your house.
- Unplug all unnecessary appliances before you leave.
- Retrieve messages on your home voicemail so it's not full when someone calls.

Did you know?: You can have a water flow sensor and a low temperature sensor installed on your main water supply pipe. Be sure to look for the kind that can be hooked up to an alarm system or your smart phone.