

50 ITEM SNOWBIRD CHECKLIST

Preparing Your Home Before You Leave

While every attempt has been made to make the following information helpful, relative and accurate, responsibility and risk for the use of this data rests with you, the homeowner. The information provided is a suggestion only.

		Leaving	Return
1.	Make sure garbage disposal is free of food particles.		
2.	Remove all perishable goods from refrigerator.		
3.	Move patio furniture indoors. Bring in anything located outdoors that may blow around in a heavy wind storm.		
4.	Lock patio doors. Install wood dowel in tracks to restrain sliding doors and windows.		
5.	Properly dispose of any bags of garbage. Spray waste baskets and garbage cans with Lysol or other disinfectant spray.		
6.	Dispose of items that have accumulated over the winter. Recycle those newspapers, bottles and aluminum cans. Donate unwanted clothes and books.		
7.	Stop mail or have it forwarded. Cancel newspapers subscriptions. Ask neighbors to remove any newspapers, periodicals, etc., being placed in your entryway or front porch while you are away.		
8.	Remove the vacuum cleaner bag and replace with a fresh one. Replace any water filters with clean ones.		
9.	Clean outdoor grill.		
10.	Notify your neighbors and, if you live in a community, notify management. Give them a departure date and estimated return date. Ask several neighbors to keep an eye on your home. Make sure that at least one has keys. Share		
11.	Turn off the water at local shut-off points. This includes toilets, sinks irrigation system, outside spigots and water to refrigerator/ice maker		
12.	Do not shut off the main water to the house since this will impact the Boiler heating system.		
13.	Some residents like to have a professional pest-control firm spray around the house before they leave. Others distribute the pesticide around the house themselves.		
14.	Make sure the stove is off.		
15.	Make sure any food items that could rot or draw bugs are thrown away.		
16.	Clean your dishwasher thoroughly, paying attention to the edges of the door. Blot up any residual water in the bottom after you run your last load.		

17.	Consider what to do regarding your phone. Some phone companies offer vacation service, which has the effect of disconnecting the phone but keeping the number active so it can be reinstated when you return. However, if you have a security system that automatically telephones the monitoring office when a break in is detected, placing your phone on vacation mode disables that part of your system.		
18.	Thoroughly clean all appliances. Don't forget the toaster, blender, mixer, microwave oven, toaster oven, and range (including over and broiler, as well as burners and drip pans). Any food particles or residue can attract pests.		
19.	There are two philosophies on what to do with the refrigerator. One is to leave it empty, unplugged, making sure the icemaker water supply is off, and prop the door open. The second idea is to turn the dial to the warmest temperature setting, turn off the icemaker and fill both the freezer and fridge with jugs of water. Some who use this method recommend placing a dish of either activated charcoal or baking soda inside to absorb odors. If you decide on this option do not turn off the circuit breaker.		
20.	If you have candles and plan to leave your refrigerator on, place the candles in the fridge so they don't soften during the summer.		
21.	Cover all sinks, toilet bowls, toilet tanks, and floor drains with plastic (Saran) wrap. This prevents water evaporating from the trap, allowing sewer gases into your home.		
22.	Do not put bleach tablets in the toilet tank.		
23.	Shut off the breaker for the hot water heater. Some water heaters also have a "Vacation" setting that you can use instead of turning it all the way off.		
24.	Turn off water valves to washing machine, dishwasher, sinks and toilets.		
25.	Turn off breakers for all circuits not needing power.		
26.	If leaving a car behind prepare it for long term storage.		
27.	Make sure the washing machine is fully drained so mold will not grow.		
28.	Make sure all curtains and blinds are closed to prevent anyone from seeing inside, and to keep out as much sun and heat as possible.		
29.	Unplug TV's, any small kitchen appliances, stereo, DVD player, computer, power strips, or anything that has a "Sleep" mode.		
30.	Put a timer on at least one light, set to come on and off to make the home appear occupied. Ask neighbors to check the bulb and replace if it burns out. Remember to leave the breaker for that outlet turned on.		
31.	Make sure all windows are closed and locked.		
32.	Pull furniture away from the walls and pull out loose cushions on couches and chairs. This allows air circulation that will retard mold and mildew.		
33.	Some people like to leave fans on lowest setting for air circulation.		
34.	Open all closets and dresser drawers so air circulates.		

35.	Place ant traps near piping or where pipe holes exist in the flooring or wall.		
36.	Some people like to set out containers around the interior of the house with activated charcoal to absorb odors and moisture.		
37.	Check for leaks, wet areas or water stains in your kitchen, bathroom and laundry areas.		
38.	Clean all flooring coverings and all surfaces to ensure that no food particles or stains attract bugs or cause mildew.		
39.	Unplug TV and Internet cables.		
40.	Cover furniture with dust covers.		
41.	Turn on security system.		
42.	Do not leave anything that does not like heat, such as candles, by a window.		
43.	Remove batteries from remote controls, clocks, etc. Leave batteries next to the items from which they were removed. Upon your return, inspect the batteries for leaks before reinstalling them.		
44.	Bring a list of important phone numbers local to your winter home, such as the management company, utility companies, and neighbor's phone numbers.		
45.	Shut off exterior faucets. Drain water from outdoor pipes, valves, and sprinkler heads to protect against pipe bursts.		
46.	Remove any attached hoses and store them away for the winter to prevent cracks and prolong their life. Wrap outside faucets with covers to prevent water damage		
47.	Replace screen doors with storm doors. Remove window screens.		
48.	Set thermostat at 55 degrees to prevent pipes from freezing.		
49.	Have your chimney /fireplace / furnace checked annually to ensure they are working correctly.		
50.	Please remove planters from your driveway to allow for more efficient snow removal this winter		